Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-172
Wednesday
8 September 1993

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Second Week of Arab-Israeli Negotiations Detailed

Syria's al-'Allaf—Agreement 'Unlikely'

JN0709185993 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Arab and Israeli delegates began the second week of the 11th round of the Washington peace talks today.

Syria's chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, responding to reporters' questions before he went into the meeting, said that, barring a sudden change in the Israeli position, any agreement was unlikely. The Israelis, he added, must first adopt a more constructive and serious approach to the central issues of the fifth item of the draft declaration of principles, due for reconsideration today. Al-'Allaf said the chances were slim thanks to Israel's negative posture every time the discussions addressed matters of substance.

Asked if developments in the Palestinian-Israeli track will affect other tracks, he said the fuss created there has led the Israelis to take a wait-and-see attitude on the other tracks. It seems that by suspending movement on other tracks, al-'Allaf said, Israel means to keep the spotlight focused on the Palestinian track.

Asked if it was possible to work out phased solutions between Syria and Israel, al-'Allaf said: With 22 months and enormous efforts invested in a peace process pursuing a comprehensive solution grounded in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, we do not think that phased or step-by-step solutions advance a comprehensive peace. Given goodwill and good faith on the part of Israel, it shouldn't be too long before a comprehensive peace is worked out, al-'Allaf stated.

Jordanian, Palestinians on Talks

JN0709191293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] The Middle East peace talks resumed in Washington today amid signs of a possible breakthrough on all tracks of the Arab- Israeli negotiations, and warnings from some parties that there is nothing firm to speak of yet in this regard.

More details are contained in our reporter's dispatch from Washington.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Shakir Maharimah] The peace negotiations between the Arab delegations and Israeli negotiating teams resumed at the U.S. State Department in Washington today in a second week of talks amid great hopes that this round will make tangible progress, particularly on the Palestinian track, in the aftermath of the announcement that the PLO and Israel have endorsed the Gaza-Jericho First option. The peace negotiations on the Jordanian track began where they left off during the 10th round. The committees formed during the ninth round of talks on water resources, refugees, and occupied Jordanian territory have continued to discuss details. No discussions of the agenda have thus far been held.

[Chief Jordanian negotiator Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah] As a matter of fact, with regard to the Jordanian track, we do have a draft agenda agreement, which is an agreed outline of topics that will be negotiated. We have not agreed on any of these topics. This is because we are still in the process of negotiations. This agenda agreement might have been announced. However, negotiations on specifics require a long time. Consequently, we do not have anything to sign.

[Maharimah] With respect to negotiations on the Palestinian track, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has affirmed that the negotiations on this track have been marginalized due to the direct negotiations currently under way between the PLO and Israel.

['Ashrawi] The issues being discussed here are secondary. We are waiting for instructions to work, one way or another, on specifics and on the moves that we need to take. Pending the signing of the agreement, and pending the attainment of an official agreement between the Israeli Government and the PLO, the delegation will continue to wait for PLO instructions. Its work will remain technical. Right now, I believe that there will be a reorganization and redistribution of tasks and delegation members. Once an agreement is reached, the delegation must be reshaped and divided into various working groups. Moreover, efficient members will be added to the delegation as necessary. Of course, this will be conducted with the direct participation of PLO officials.

[Maharimah] Regarding the announcement of an agreement between the PLO and Israel, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi affirmed that withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho will not be isolated from future developments in the remaining occupied territories.

['Ashrawi] With respect to the declaration of principles, which contains the so-called Gaza-Jericho option, I would like to make it clear, first, that there is nothing called the Gaza-Jericho First option. There is, indeed, a complete political framework, which has taken the form of a declaration of principles. This framework covers all occupied territories. It also provides for an interim period within the context of a specific timeframe and a timetable for withdrawal. All these issues are linked to the final phase, during which UN Security Council Resolution 242 will be implemented; i.e., the principle of withdrawal.

[Maharimah] As for negotiations on the Syrian track, the information available to us indicate that no breakthroughs have thus far taken place on that track. So, it is unlikely that there will be an announcement of a declaration of principles on this track, or that there will be

agreement on security issues. The same goes for the negotiations on the Lebanese track: There have been no breakthroughs on this track—something which would help implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. [end recording]

Arab, Israeli Delegates Comment

JN0709200193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] The Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations were resumed in Washington this evening in a second week of talks amid initial signs that no progress has been made. More details are contained in the following report.

The sessions held this evening were on the Palestinian-Israeli, Syrian-Israeli, and Lebanese-Israeli tracks. With respect to the session of talks to be held on the Jordanian-Israeli track, it will be held later tonight.

Upon his departure from the U.S. State Department after talks that lasted one and a half hours with the Israeli delegation, chief Palestinian negotiator Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the two sides touched on all aspects of the PLO-Israeli agreement and mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

For his part, chief Syrian negotiator Muwaffaq al-'Allaf today ruled out the likelihood of reaching agreement with Israel during the current round of talks. Upon his arrival at the U.S. State Department, he said that the chances for progress are slim, thanks to the negative Israeli position and attitude with regard to core issues. He ruled out the attainment of any agreement this week. He added: Prior to the start of the negotiations; i.e., after the weekend, the Israeli position with regard to complete withdrawal from the Golan was negative. We are waiting for a more positive and serious stand. No progress has been made.

When queried about reports which are speaking of an Israeli agreement to withdraw from the Golan, starting with the town of Majdal Shams, al-'Allaf said: These news reports do not deserve any comment. He added: If the Israelis demonstrate good faith and honesty, then it will be possible to reach comprehensive peace without any delay.

As for chief Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich, he expressed hope that there will be progress this week. However, he doubted the possible attainment of agreement before this round of talks ends on 14 September. He added that he expects the talks to focus on the fifth paragraph of the draft declaration of principles, the paragraph which addresses withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the kind of peace Israel will have.

Rabinovich went on to say: We made some progress in terms of drafting last week. I hope that we will continue to make some progress this week. But, I doubt that we will be able to reach what we can call an agreement before this round of talks ends.

Syrian Sovereignty Over Golan Discussed

TA0709061593 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Sep 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar, special correspondent in Washington]

[Excerpts] Israel and Syria have reached understandings on Israeli recognition of Syrian sovereignty in the Golan. The first site to return to Syrian sovereignty would be Majdal Shams. The understanding was reached in secret contacts mediated by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and it allows the parties to engage in the minutest details of withdrawal dates in the Golan in deference to Israel's security needs. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Rabinovich yesterday denied that Israel has decided to officially acknowledge Syrian sovereignty on the Golan.

The prime minister's bureau said in reaction that Majdal Shams—a large Druze settlement at the foot of Mount Hermon—is strategically important to Israel. Its return to Syrian sovereignty would deprive Israel of the ability to control the area from the heights of Mount Hermon. "In terms of security, it would be better to let the Syrians have Zefat, rather than Majdal Shams," sources close to Rabin stressed.

Israel will apparently insist on the right to position observation points on the Hermon's western shoulder, which is under Israeli sovereignty at present.

It should be stressed that Majdal Shams suffers from family separation. The assumption is that the Israeli public will show understanding if a decision is made to leave an area populated by families which were separated in the Six Day War and have not met since.

Political elements in Jerusalem estimated that this understanding with the Syrians—if it indeed exists—spurred Syrian President al-Asad's support for the arrangement with the Palestinians and the PLO. An Israeli-Palestinian arrangement can free him from his commitment not to reach an agreement "standing on its own two feet" unless the Palestinians reached an arrangement acceptable to them. It will be stressed that it is as yet unclear whether the arrangement with Syria will be announced simultaneously with the Palestinian statement. The prime minister's bureau is apprehensive about public reaction to the departure from Gaza and Jericho and would like to defer the announcement of the other arrangement. A decision on this matter will be made in the coming days. [passage omitted]

Syrian Delegate: 'No Progress' at Talks

JN0709204893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has announced that no progress was made during the fourth day's meeting of the second week

of the 11th round. Responding to reporters following today's meeting, al-'Allaf said: We have returned to the point where we were during the previous rounds, without achieving any progress because of Israel's refusal to meet its obligations in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338, namely, its withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967.

Al-'Allaf also said: We are now discussing the fifth item, which is the most important one. We have noticed that every time we discuss this basic issue, without which peace is impossible, Israel's position remains absolutely unserious. He reaffirmed that unless a change in Israel's position occurred, there would be no possibility of progress.

Jordan: Agenda With Israel Agreed

TA0809080793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the head of the Jordanian delegation, said last night in Washington that Jordan and Israel have reached agreement on the negotiations agenda. He said that an official declaration on the above will immediately follow the signing of the agreement between the Palestinians and Israel in Washington next Monday. Dr. al-Tarawinah said that there is no need to sign the agreement and that an official declaration about it will suffice.

Our correspondent in Washington Moti Amir reports that the agreement defines the goal of the negotiations as the establishment of peace between the two countries based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The agreement details the spheres of cooperation that both sides will discuss. These include the fields of water, environment, energy, economic issues, security, and borders. The third clause in the agreement explains the need to discuss the matter of 90,000 Palestinians who were late in returning to their homes in the territories [after the 1967 war] and whom Israel subsequently refused to accept.

Norwegian Foreign Minister on Role in Peace Talks

PM0709170093 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 6 Sep 93 p 2

[Report on interview with Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst by Harald Stanghelle; date, place not given]

[Text] "I am taking nothing for granted until the peace agreement is signed, but I know that the two sides cannot go back and pretend that everything is as it was. The die is cast."

So said Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst in an interview with AFTENPOSTEN. While his government colleagues are involved in the election campaign, the foreign minister has been engaged in hectic diplomatic activity to get the last pieces into place in the Palstinian-Israeli Oslo agreement.

Late on Saturday evening [4 September] Johan Jorgen Holst returned from meetings with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Paris. And Holst does not know for sure where he will be over the next few days.

"In situations like this one it is always the final and decisive step that will be the most difficult," the foreign minister remarked.

In the last week there have been dramatic developments in the complicated Middle East process. The news of the Oslo negotiations first met with disbelief, then with distrust, before meeting with some some display of confidence in the last few days. Opinions are strongly divided, but support for the plan is so promising that the United States has already hinted that a series of Israeli-Arab peace agreements could be ready for signature in Washington next Monday.

Regardless of what the next few days bring, there can be little doubt that more has happened in the Middle East process in the last week than in the last two years.

"Even if we perceive this as almost incredible, it is very important to stress that this is not happening in a vacuum. The "Norwegian" part of this process drew heavily on the work that has been done in the more ordinary and open part of the peace process," Johan Jorgen Holst said, adding:

"It is also a fact that the U.S. secretary of state's Middle East trip in August changed the whole climate for the Oslo process. It came at a time when we had entered upon a very difficult phase, and it made a major contribution to our being able to make progress."

The Norwegian foreign minister made no secret of the fact that he is proud of the contribution made by the Norwegian participants. In Paris on Saturday he was also able to hear how Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres praised the Norwegian efforts. But Johan Jorgen Holst said that he reacts unfavorably when the Oslo process is portrayed in some of the media more or less like a short story from a weekly magazine, as he put it:

"Even as a father I have I suppose to admit that the fact that my four-year-old son once or twice wandered in and out of the room in which we were sitting in at my home did not have any influence on the complicated negotiations," he said with irony, also reporting that his wife, Marianne Heiberg, did not take part in the negotiations:

"She was in charge of FAFO's [Trade Union Center for Research, Investigation, and Documentation] living conditions study, but was not responsible for the negotiations themselves—like Jan Egeland, Terje Rod Larsen, Mona Juell, and I were."

Holst said that he does not like it when processes like this one are portrayed more or less as a family affair.

"That shows a lack of understanding of what makes such a political process possible," he pointed out.

According to the foreign minister, there are several reasons why it was precisely Norway which was used as the channel which brought the PLO and Israel together in direct negotiations. Ever since the state of Israel was set up there has been a close and warm relationship between the Norwegian and Israeli Labor parties. They are now both holding government power.

In earlier phases the close relationship between Israel and Norway has barred the way for a relationship of trust with the PLO. But according to Holst, since the mid-eighties the Labor Party has systematically built up a close relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organization too.

In other words, the necessary foundations were already there. The opportunity for a special contribution offered itself when work began in earnest on FAFO's living conditions study in the Israeli-occupied areas. Carrying out this study needed permission, cooperation, and confidence in relations with both sides, and this made it natural for there to be a series of talks with central Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

The final element which Holst mentioned is that in this situation there were people in place who were able to exploit this opportunity. And according to the foreign minister, it is Terje Rod Larsen and Jan Egeland who were the original architects of what is now being called the Oslo process.

Jan Egeland must also have seen the opportunity at a very early stage: "We have struck it lucky," he said in an interview with AFTENPOSTEN in the spring of 1991.

The point of departure was that the FAFO study had won the support both of Israelis and Palestinians, and Egeland spoke enthusiastically of its importance. His remarks met with a smile from more established foreign policy circles, and were seen as a sign that Norway's desire and enthusiasm to save the world were greater than Norway's realism. But Egeland was right, and the rest of us were wrong: The FAFO study became the key which unlocked the deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian positions.

"It became apparent that both sides were interested in contact. The Israeli Labor Party had reached the conclusion that it it was impossible to negotiate with the Palestinians without the PLO being directly involved in the negotiations," Holst commented, formulating the challenge as follows:

"We had to organize it in such a way that those sitting round the table both felt and behaved like negotiators, and not only as spokesmen for their own interests. We discovered that it was possible to build on a common philosophy: Trust is not something that you have or do not have. Nor can you decide to have trust. Trust between two sides must be created. It was a great experience to see this philosophy put into practice."

Johan Jorgen Holst was unwilling to comment on the details of the Oslo agreement before the parties themselves make the agreement public, but leaks in the major Israeli newspaper, YEDI'OT AHARONOT, show that there is agreement on the principles for an interim self-government arrangement for the Palestinians. It has also been settled how the plan is to be implemented, how conflicts are to be resolved, and perhaps the most important thing: a detailed timetable for the continuation of the process.

"The time was ripe; an opportunity needed to be found. I believe that the Israelis too have an interest in a strong PLO, and are in no doubt that the strong Islamic advance has helped to drive this process forward. In several areas this touches on the future struggle for hegemony in the Middle East—a struggle between moderate, secular forces and more fundamentalist forces," Johan Jorgen Holst said.

And Holst rejected the suggestion that the Oslo agreement repeesents a betrayal of the interests of the Palestinians:

"I go faint when I hear things like that. It is an element of an all-or-nothing thinking which shows that people are more taken up with the struggle itself than with achieving results for the people affected. Regardless of the goals people have at the outset, it is a matter of dealing with an actual situation which—whether you like it or not—sets limits on what it is possible to achieve."

In many ways it is a paradox that it has been Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat who have set the tone for developments over the past few months. Both belong to a generation among whom implacability is dominant. Both have seen many possibilities for peace go to waste. Both belong to the last generation in the Middle East which remembers the period before the state of Israel was set up. Now their time as leaders is running out.

"Perhaps we should not underestimate the biological factor in this," Johan Jorgen Holst remarked.

"This is their chance, perhaps the last one. If they are unable to achieve a peaceful solution now, they will be unable to hand over an orderly and hopeful political legacy to the next generation. They also know in which dangerous direction the conflict could develop. That is why they seized the opportunity when it offered itself. Both have shown great political courage," said Johan Jorgen Holst, who, even though he is an optimist, is taking nothing for granted until the agreement is signed.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Adviser on Lifting Boycott Against Israel

NC0709153093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Tal'at Hamid, adviser to the Arab League secretary general, has said the Arab boycott against Israel is a permanent topic on the League Council's agenda.

In a statement today, he added that lifting the Arab boycott against Israel has to be proposed by one Arab state and seconded by another. The proposal should be forwarded to the Council for discussion because the Arab League Council is the authority that issued the boycott resolution and lifting it is up to the Council.

He noted that lifting the indirect boycott against Israel is up to each individual Arab country according to its own interest. He affirmed that lifting the boycott is linked to the progress of the peace process according to international legitimacy provisions and international law.

Iraq Fails in Bid To Rejoin Arab Monetary Fund

NC0609151793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—During its meeting today at the level of the permanent representatives to the Arab League, the Arab Economic and Social Council turned down Iraq's request to include the lifting of the suspension of its membership in the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development on the agenda of the council's ministerial meeting scheduled to open on Thursday.

A total of 16 states voted against the request while four states voted in favor. The rejection was based on the fact that the council has no authority to discuss the Iraqi request. This authority belongs to the Board of the Governors of the Arab Central Banks.

The council is expected to continue its meetings this evening and tomorrow morning to prepare the final agenda of the meeting.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Leader Condemns Armenian 'Aggression'

LD0709214793 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept. 7, IRNA—Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamid Algabid condemned the Armenian aggression on Azerbaijan Republic Tuesday [7 September].

Algabid made the remark in a meeting with Iran's deputy envoy at the OIC headquarter in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Asghar Manoni today.

Manoni briefed Algabid on Iran's mediation efforts to settle the Karabakh dispute and to restore peace and security in the Caucasus.

He said thousands of Azeri nationals have been displaced because of the Armenian military offensives against Azerbaijan.

Manoni stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran in cooperation with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees Affairs (UNHCR) has sent foodstufs to the war-stricken people across its northwestern borders.

Iran will also set up refugee camps inside Azerbaijan to house some 100,000 people fleeing the Armenian offensives on their hometowns.

Algabid, lauding Iran for its relief efforts, said continuation of the Armenian offensive against Azerbaijan has made the situation in the region "very critical."

He called on regional countries and international bodies, the U.N. Security Council in particular, to spare no efforts to halt the Armenian aggression and to rush humanitarian relief aid to Azerbaijan Republic.

The Arab-Israel compromise as well as the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina were also among the issues discussed at the meeting.

Islamic Unity Conference Ends in Tehran

LD0709225393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] In a final communique, the scholars and thinkers participating in the sixth international Islamic unity conference in Tehran called for solutions to the problems of Islamic society on the basis of knowledge of historic circumstances, the divine book, and the traditions as well as the rich legacy of the prophet of Islam.

The communique, published Tuesday [7 September] night, stressed the vital necessity of affinity among Islamic sects and the rejection of actions and policies that could cause discord in Islamic society.

The communique also said that it is necessary to establish an Islamic university for the followers of the various sects.

Declaring that the cultural onslaught is a serious danger for Islam, the participants condemned the publication of books opposed to the beliefs of Islamic sects.

The final communique of the sixth Islamic unity conference also supported the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Azerbaijan Republic, Somalia, Iraq, Kashmir, Lebanon, and Palestine and called on the Islamic community to react to their calls for help.

The communique also called on Islamic governments to be diligent in ending economic dependence on the world's arrogant powers while guarding the economic interests of Muslims.

The participants in the conference also pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the banner-holder for the idea of unity and affinity among Islamic sects, and prayed for the ascendence of the spirit of Imam Khomeyni. God's blessing be upon him, and also wished long life and health for his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

In the sixth international Islamic unity conference, the result of regional Islamic unity conferences were studied and the role of common understanding between Islamic scholars in establishing unity in the Islamic community was discussed.

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif: Gaza-Jericho Mere 'Starting Step'

LD0709144393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Excerpts] New developments are expected in the Palestinian arena during the upcoming hours, thus paving the way for the signing of a Palestinian-Israeli self-rule agreement. On these developments and current contacts in the Middle East region, Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to the Palestinian president, gave this interview to Mohmed Moncef Moadhen from the news department.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Sharif] The PLO Executive Committee will hold a meeting chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat either Wednesday [8 September] evening or Thursday morning to discuss and make decisions on the latest developments and to draw up a working plan for the immediate future.

[Moadhen] This means that the mutual recognition can only happen after the meeting has taken place?

[Abu-Sharif] It is only natural that our democratic institutions should take their course, and President 'Arafat is eager to see this happen. I believe that this meeting will be the one that will discuss all aspects pertaining to this issue.

[Moadhen] Good. Right up to the present time, what is new in the negotiations currently taking place in Washington?

[Abu-Sharif] The negotiating delegations are still carrying out their duties over there. However, the diplomatic and political activity is taking place in this region. As you are aware, President Yasir 'Arafat undertook a quick tour to a number of Arab capitals. He has just met President Mubarak, and he is expected back in Tunis as soon as possible to chair the meting that will study the latest details and take the appropriate decisions.

[Moadhen] What was the outcome of this tour?

[Abu-Sharif] The tour yielded good results vis-a-vis meetings with Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak. Our hope is that the agreement will be a successful one so that we will be able to end the occupation of our land and achieve the return of everybody to their homeland.

[Moadhen] We keep hearing a great deal on Gaza and Jericho. We would like to know more about the locations of Gaza and Jericho and what are the resources that can be found in them?

[Abu-Sharif] First of all, I would like to clarify to everyone that the step of Gaza-Jericho First is but a starting step that is integral to a plan to end the Israeli occupation from all Palestinian land that was occupied in 1967. It is also linked to the transfer of full authority to a genuine Palestinian Government, which is also related to a final stage during which the Palestinian people will be able to recover its national independence. The issue is interlinked; this but a first step and not a final agreement. [passage omitted]

[Moadhen] Following the signature of the agreement and the implementation of the operation, will the PLO headquarters be transferred to Jericho and Gaza? [Abu-Sharif] Undoubtedly this issue will be discussed by the PLO leadership. But it is only natural to have the PLO and Arafat's headquarters in Gaza and Jericho as they have to supervise the construction of the state directly. [end recording]

Al-Husayni Views Impact of Agreement With Israel

JN0709180593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi; from the "With the Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: How do you view the sweeping political developments and their impact on the Palestinian street?

[Al-Husayni] I believe they are steps toward achieving a lasting peaceful solution, as well as the Palestinian people's aspirations for an independent state. I also believe there is every possibility of reaching an agreement with Israel on establishing a state with Jerusalem as its capital, without the need to divide the city.

[Mu'addi] Abu-al-'Abd [Faysal al-Husayni] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has been able to overcome the first obstacle, the Fatah Central Committee. Do you believe Yasir 'Arafat will be able to win the support of other Palestinian institutions, the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I believe that is possible, particularly since the current negotiations will further clarify the picture and will make some progress on the ground. This will provide a chance of approving the agreement more quickly.

[Mu'addi] Have you begun to prepare Palestinian cadres to take over authority when self-rule is applied?

[Al-Husayni] Since Madrid, technical teams have been formed to study ways of taking over all departments and authorities of the new situation.

[Mu'addi] What about the formation of a Palestinian police force?

[Al-Husayni] There is intensive training in Egypt and Jordan to prepare the Palestinian police forces. I believe that large numbers of Palestinians here will also be trained to take over authority in the future.

[Mu'addi] Will the members of the negotiating Palestinian delegation take part in the signing ceremony between Israel and the PLO in Washington?

[Al-Husayni] I believe it is very possible, but it depends on the protocol and who will be present.

[Mu'addi] What is your reply to criticism being leveled by the rejectionist front opposing the agreement?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that people will notice and are really noticing that much of the attack is directed at a document, which has not been studied or read well by the opposition. Therefore, they attack points that do not exist in the agreement.

[Mu'addi] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team, thank you very much.

[Al-Husayni] You are welcome.

PLO Official Denies Israel To Control Bridges

JN0809093993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Sep 93 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Tuesday [7 September] rejected Israeli assertions that the Jewish state would continue to exercise sole control over the bridges across the River Jordan under the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accord.

"Under the autonomy deal, an international force would be deployed to supervise joint Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian control of the King Husayn and Prince Muhammad bridges," said the official.

"This is one of the many points in the agreement and we have Israeli concurrence on that," added the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"There are going to be joint committees which will handle various aspects of the agreement. Israeli officials are catering to their constituents by sending messages of limited Palestinian control in various fields under the accord," said the official.

The official was commenting on a statement by Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal that the Israeli occupation authorities would not relinquish control of the bridges during the five-year Palestinian autonomy period.

"The bridges will be under the control of the Israeli defence forces," Mr. Shahal was quoted as saying. "There is no doubt about it."

Jordanian officials declined comment on the issue, with some of them saying they were not aware of the fine points of the agreement.

The PLO official said a "token" U.N. force would be deployed in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho immediately after the expected Israeli withdrawal (or redeployment as the Israelis call it) from the two areas.

"This force will be responsible for matters related to joint Israeli-Arab control wherever applicable in the autonomous area," said the official. "These include the entry and exit points, where the force would supervise joint control of security inspections."

According to the official, it is envisaged that "joint control checkpoints" will be set up at the crossing points and "Israel will not have a veto over who could come and who could go out."

The "joint control checkpoints" will involve Egypt, Israel and the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians in Jericho, the official said.

The official also said a corridor would be set up between Jericho and the Gaza Strip. In addition, the Palestinian self-rule authority will also upgrade a military airstrip in Jericho to an airport.

Control of the bridges is a key issue in what Jordanian officials have described in the kingdom's security concerns that the so-called Gaza-Jericho first plan could lead to an Israeli-engineered Palestinian influx to the East Bank.

The scenario, according to this line of thinking, involves the possibility of Israel expelling whoever it sees as "undesirable" to Jericho from other parts of the occupied West Bank. these people would be compelled to cross to the East Bank because of limited living conditions in Jericho.

"Once they cross to the East Bank, it is easy for Israel to deny them reentry to the West Bank if it (the Jewish state) is in sole control of the bridges," a senior official noted last week.

What does that mean except a de facto expulsion of Palestinians to the East Bank?" [no opening quotation marks as published]

But Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said last week that the Israeli-PLO accord "would not hurt Jordan."

"On the contrary, it will provide an opportunity for Palestinian refugees since 1967" to return to their homeland, he said in an interview.

"We will not hesitate to close the bridges (across the River Jordan) to prevent a Palestinian exodus into Jordan (should that every happen)," he said.

These opinions and views were expressed before His Majesty King Husayn extended unequivocal endorsement for the Israel-PLO agreement, which he said went beyond all published accounts.

The King, in a press conference where he welcomed the plan as the beginning of a process which would hopefully lead to a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, said Jordan did not have any plan to close the bridges.

Comments in the local press, based on the "security fears" of a Palestinian influx, the King said, were the reflection of a free press in democratic Jordan and do not reflect government thinking.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

'Arafat on Autonomy, Israeli Withdrawal From Golan

TA0809091993

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew on 8 September on pages 3 and 4 reports on an interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by 'Uzi Mahanaymi in Tunis. The date of the interview is not given. Mahanaymi asks 'Arafat whether he will be able to control Gaza and Jericho, and 'Arafat replies: "I controlled all of Lebanon. Do you think that I cannot control Palestine? I reached the first agreement with you in history: a cease-fire agreement with Menahem Begin in the summer of 1981. Do you think I cannot control Gaza?" 'Arafat continues: "I signed the cease-fire agreement because of that character, Sabri al-Banna (Abu-Nidal), the guy who gave Israel an excuse to invade Lebanon." HA'OLAM HAZE notes that "'Arafat was referring to the assassination attempt against Israeli Ambassador in London Shlomo Argov on the eve of the Lebanon War." 'Arafat says: "People will yet hear a lot about Mr. Sabri al-Banna and his ties with Israel. At any rate, we will enforce our control over Gaza and Jericho. That is a piece of cake for us."

Mahanaymi recounts that 'Arafat was careful not to make any direct comments about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. When asked what he believes motivated Rabin to take such a dramatic step and start talks with the PLO, 'Arafat replies: "Rabin saw that he had no other choice and that it would be impossible to make any progress toward peace without talking to us." Mahanaymi notes that despite this clear statement, he received the impression that "'Arafat was very surprised by Rabin's turnabout." Would 'Arafat meet with Rabin? "Certainly," 'Arafat replies. "Clearly, the two leaders of both sides have to meet." HA'OLAM HAZE notes, however, that 'Arafat would not commit himself to a specific date.

When asked whether he thought the agreement with Israel blocked the chances for a concurrent agreement with Syria, 'Arafat says: "On the contrary, I know for a fact that there are concrete understandings between Syria and Israel. You have agreed to withdraw from the Golan Heights in two stages: In the first stage, you will pull back from the present borders to the defense line on the Golan (Har Avital, Tall al-Faras)." 'Arafat explains that the areas vacated would be "secured by U.S. troops and, perhaps, also an international force. Under the agreement with the Syrians, you will keep the rest of the territory for 10 years. In other words," 'Arafat says, "according to my information, Rabin has agreed to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights under a commitment to return all the area to Syria within 10 years." HA'OLAM HAZE reports that 'Arafat revealed that Israel "wanted to lease the Golan Heights for 99 years, but Syria refused." 'Arafat also revealed that there would be full coordination between the PLO and Israel on security issues. "This is not only your security," 'Arafat says. "It is our security, and it goes without saying that there will be full coordination between us on security issues."

Asked whether the Palestinians prefer a confederation with Jordan or a confederation with Israel, 'Arafat replies: "I am prepared to establish a different kind of confederation, but are you ready for it? I do not believe Israel will agree to a confederation with Palestine, but I will say more than that. I do not believe that I will live to see it, but I am already promising you that in the future, Israel and Palestine will be one united country in which Israelis and Palestinians will live together."

Asked whether he believes Israeli society could accept such a dramatic development, 'Arafat replies: "You Israelis are still full of inhibitions. You have a psychological block with regard to Palestinians; however, once peace comes, I have no doubt that relations between Palestinians and Israelis will improve beyond recognition."

Views Ways To Settle Intercecine Strife

NC0809210093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has said he believes he will be in Jericho in four months, after the Palestinian security forces have deployed in Gaza and Jericho.

In an interview in Friday's edition of the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, 'Arafat commented on remarks by some people that the PLO's rush to implement the Gaza-Jericho plan is due to its weakness. He described these remarks as suspicious analysis not worth a reaction. He referred to the recent opinion poll in the occupied territories, which showed that 74 percent approve the Gaza-Jericho plan.

The Palestinian president reiterated that he backs any Palestinian opposition, as long as it is exercised within the Palestinian framework. Opposition outside this framework does not count, he said.

Asked about internal opposition among Fatah and Hamas followers, 'Arafat said: We have overcome these differences by reaching new formulas based on the rule that disputes should take a democratic rather than a violent form.

'Arafat said no civil war will flare up in Gaza, because the Palestinians know what is good for them and their homeland. I reach out to all brothers in the Palestinian organizations and appeal to them to cooperate with us in steering this Palestinian action for our people's benefit.

Touching on the PLO's financial crisis, 'Arafat remarked that this is the first deficit the PLO has encountered and is part of the pressure on the organization. He regretted some Arab states withholding the five percent and seven percent Palestinian expatriates' pay, which an Arab League resolution designated as a "liberation tax."

The Palestinian president appealed to Arab Gulf states to resume their assistance to the PLO, stressing that Palestinian stability is vital for Middle East stability.

'Arafat highlighted the need to make the signing of the declaration of principles contingent upon the signing of mutual letters of recognition between the PLO and Israel. These letters are encountering difficulties due to Israel's insistence on including an article in the Palestinian letter emphasizing its willingness to cancel some articles in the Palestinian national charter, he explained. We are trying to solve the problem, because only the Palestine National Council has the power to cancel articles of the charter, he said.

The Palestinian president reiterated that no Palestinian civil war will break out. We can do our job, he affirmed.

PPP Declares Support for PLO-Israel Accord

JN0709183093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Sep 93 p 29

[Text] Amman—The Palestinian People's Party [PPP], formerly the Communist Party, has announced its support for the Israeli-Palestinian accord, considering it the beginning of a solution to the Palestine question.

In a statement distributed yesterday, the party said that the declaration of principles which the PLO reached with Israel is not a solution to our people's cause, but is a step toward that solution.

The party added that the PPP's Central Committee, which held an extraordinary session to study the agreement, decided with a large majority that although the declared declaration of principles fails to fulfill Palestinian national demands, it does not obstruct the continuation of their struggle.

In his statement, the party said the Palestinian side's success in translating the declaration of principles in favor of the Palestinian people depends on the extent of the PLO's ability to embark on a comprehensive democratic reform of its organs and institutions as well as the methods of dealing with its masses and causes.

Hamas Absent From 'Charter of Honor' Signatories

TA0709123093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] A charter of honor designed to regulate relations between all the PLO groups and factions, aimed mainly at preventing violence and bloodshed after the establishment of the autonomy, was published today in the territories. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is conspicuous in its absence from the document.

The clauses of the charter include: respecting mutual rights and banning acts of violence such as kidnapping, torture, confiscation of property, etc. The signatories also undertake not to hurt religious sentiments and, at the same time, ban the imposition of moral codes of behavior on the population. It endorses the right of women to engage in public activities and to work. The charter further notes that the question of the collaborators with Israel must be referred to a supreme Palestinian authority.

Accord Termed 'Conspiracy'

NC0809105093 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 8 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas on Wednesday [8 September] branded the PLO autonomy deal with Israel a "conspiracy" and urged all PLO office-holders to resign.

"We call on all members of the National Council, the Central Council and the executive committee to step down," Hamas said in a statement distributed in the occupied territories.

It demanded that a "national Palestinian conference" be held very soon "to take practical steps to save our people".

Hamas, which is not part of the Palestine Liberation Organization umbrella, opposes the peace process itself as well as the agreement with Israel to launch autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho first.

It also called for an escalation of the intifadah or uprising against Israeli occupation to scupper the accord.

"This agreement is just a different face of the occupation," the statement said.

"It will be a weak autonomous administration over just two percent of Palestine. Jerusalem and the settlements are left under the control of the Zionist entity."

Israel hopes the historic agreement for a five-year period of autonomy spreading over the rest of the West Bank will be signed in Washington next week.

Editorial Calls Disbanding PLO 'Premature'

PM0709135193 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Sep 93 p 11

[Editorial: "PLO To Stay"]

[Text] When Arab leaders decided to set up the PLO in 1964 the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were under Arab sovereignty. The ambition was to liberate Haifa, Yafo, 'Akko, Majdal, Galilee, and the other occupied Palestinian territories. So any talk of dissolving the PLO before liberating the West Bank, occupied Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip is premature, makes the heart bleed, and reflects shortsightedness, and we thank God that it was denied hours after its announcement.

The PLO is the most distinguished achievement in the Palestinian people's history. This is because in addition to its being the solid embodiment of Palestinian identity, it has succeeded in uniting the Palestinian Arab people in their various factions and orientations. It has united those inside and outside the occupied territories and imposed itself on the entire world as this people's sole legitimate representative.

True, international changes and present Arab conditions have weakened the PLO, and the financial blockade imposed by some Gulf states has led to its financial bankruptcy and the destruction of its institutions, but dissolving and abolishing the PLO would mean abolishing a great history of struggle and moving the Palestinian people to an ambiguous phase.

Israel has always worked and continues to work to end the PLO because it is associated with liberation and because it was set up as a rival to Israeli existence and thus should disappear as soon as possible. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements during his meeting with school pupils the day before yesterday, in which he said that the PLO does not pose a threat to Israel and its existence, are inaccurate and conflict with the realities, otherwise Israel and its successive governments would not have worked to fight the PLO in all local and international forums over the past 30 years.

Rabin, who belittles the importance of the PLO and the threat it poses to the State of Israel and its existence, found himself in the end compelled to negotiate with it and sign an agreement with its leadership—a deviation not only from the Madrid conference formula, but from all Israeli axioms. This is because in the past Israel always insisted on refusing to negotiate with the PLO, on the grounds that it is—in its view—a terrorist organization. Israel also prevented any contacts with its officials and fought it in the occupied territories and international forums.

The present Palestinian situation is extremely critical, and the first Arab issue and its people are currently at a serious turning point. Because it is the first time this people have experienced the prospect of a gradual settlement and a split in views: for and against. At the same time everyone—supporters and oppositionists—realize that negotiation is the only option available and that the international and regional reality cannot produce a better settlement than this. And those participating in the negotiations—Palestinians and Arabs—are fully aware that they are negotiating from a position of weakness, not a position of strength, and that they are confronting Israel disunited, not united, in the capital of the United States, Israel's strategic ally.

Nevertheless, the PLO must be safeguarded as an identity and as a liberation movement, just as Isreal is retaining its Zionist identity despite its establishment as a state and its possession of all deadly weapons, including nuclear weapons.

The PLO belongs to the Palestinian people as a whole. And it will continue to embody this people's dream of repatriation, self-determination, and liberation of all their occupied territories. As long as the occupation continues, the PLO must stay and continue.

Algeria

Malek Interviewed on Economy, PLO-Israeli Accord

LD0709210793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Report by unidentified announcer on remarks by Prime Minister Redha Malek during a visit to the national television center in Algiers on 7 September; passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and prime minister, this evening paid a visit to the national television center. His visit was an occasion for journalists to pose several questions concerning, particularly, the security and economic situation, cultural issues, and the prominent international political issue [Israeli-PLO agreement].

The prime minister was asked a question about the security and economic situation. He replied:

[Malek] "You know that two days ago the government held an urgent meeting, and it will be holding a meeting tomorrow. Naturally, this is a time when work must be intensive; we must move quickly because the march is very difficult. We must take the necessary measures to improve the general situation in the country. For this reason we, of course, spoke about administrative reform. This is a very important matter, because one of the problems is trust. There must be trust between the state and citizens. The state should assume its share: It should show that it trusts the Algerian citizen, and that it is at his service. At the same time, the citizen, particulary in these circumstances, should understand that he should trust his state and the administration. [passage omitted]

"Concerning the economy, naturally our crisis has clear economic aspects, and we must talk and discuss this vital domain. We must promote the economy so that it becomes more beneficial to the country, and give it greater scope for the future."

[Announcer] Concerning the market economy, Redha Malek said in his recent statements that Algeria would enter the market economy in a pragmatic manner. What does this mean to the prime minister?

[Malek] "Pragmatic means that we do not make prejudgements regarding these issues, because they are very complicated. One cannot control them from one's office. Naturally we have a plan and lines which we follow, but what matters is reality. We respond to reality, with the facts at our disposal, and we move forward on this road, because objectivity in this domain has become necessary. We cannot easily take measures from our office that do not correspond to reality. We must work and respond to reality and advance gradually until we arrive at the control of all these issues. Naturally work in this field requires consultation with the operators at the social and economic levels. The trade unions and the private sector must play their role. The national enterprises must also play their role." [passage omitted]

[Announcer] In the Malek government we notice the absence of some sectors, such as culture and tourism. Is there a special intention on the part of the government to reinvigorate these two sectors? The prime minister's answer was as follows:

[Malek] "It has not been easy. We took the necessary time to arrive at the formation of this government. This does not mean that we have forgotten tourism or other things such as culture. Culture is important, very important, particularly in these circumstances; we know this. But as I said in the statement [words indistinct], these matters will be promoted and have their due attention so that we may arrive at solutions acceptable to all: culture, the government, and society as a whole because a society without culture cannot be called a society." [passage omitted]

Asked about Algeria's position toward the initial Palestinian-Israeli agreement, expected to be signed over the the following few days, the prime minister answered:

[Malek] "Our position is already known. Algeria has a position. Its position is that it was the first among the Arab countries which said that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Today, everyone has come back to this principle, which was correct. Thus, when the PLO took up this initiative to solve the problem with Israel, this means that it was following a principle. We used to support the PLO before, and they have now recognized, or started to recognize this organization. Even the great powers which have not yet recognized this organization—they had reservations about it—they are on the way to recognizing it. Even the Palestinian brothers who used to work inside the occupied territories, they themselves recognize that their organization is one which represents the Palestinian people. Therefore, our position is clear. We are with our Palestinian brothers, and with the PLO. The only thing we hope is that they will arrive at a comprehensive agreement, step by step, to solve for ever this longstanding, complex problem which was put forward at the Arab countries' level, and at the level of the whole world. The important thing is that this plan leads to a just and comprehensive solution to these issues."

Libyan Envoy Summoned Over al-Qadhdhafi Remarks

LD0509195493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Here is a Foreign Ministry statement:

The Libyan ambassador was summoned today to the Foreign Ministry where he was asked to provide the necessary clarifications concerning comments made by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in s speech on 1 September which contained unacceptable remarks about Algeria, and which constitute a flagrant interference in its internal

affairs. This is something we cannot at all accept, the Foreign Ministry's statement concludes.

HCE Denounces Libyan 'Interference'

LD0709194493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry this evening released a communique that says: The Higher State Council [HCE] has acquainted itself with the recent statements and comments of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concerning Algeria, which are characterized by a blatant interference in our domestic affairs. The HCE energically denounces this interference of the Libyan leader, an interference that infringes on the honor of Algeria and the dignity of its people, and contradicts the rules of good neighborliness and the principles of the Maghreban edifice.

The HCE recalls that this interference comes in addition to other interferences aimed at liquidating the gains of the Algerian people. It comes also at a time when Algeria is taking appropriate measures to reinforce its march toward stability, democracy, and progress.

The HCE on the other hand makes it clear that the position of the Libyan official will not be able to take Algeria away from its commitments to strengthen the deep and permanent ties that link the two fraternal Algerian and Libyan peoples. The HCE recalls the firm determination of Algeria to oppose any future interferences in its domestic affairs with the appropriate means.

Court Sentences 5 to Death for Forming Armed Group

LD0809105893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] The Algiers special court yesterday issued its final verdict in the case known as the Djelfa group, which was charged with forming an armed group and inciting sabotage and civil mutiny. The sentences ranged between death for five defendants, a life sentence for one person, and five 10-year imprisonments.

Egypt

Musa Negotiations on Mutual Recognition Reported

NC0709114293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1108 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I reports today that Egypt is holding intensive contacts with Arab and European capitals on the final agreement on mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

The paper cites diplomatic sources saying that the Egyptian contacts primarily aim to bridge the differences and reach agreement on the best formula for mutual recognition acceptable to both parties for a simultaneous announcement of the anticipated recognition.

The sources note that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held high-level contacts with American and Israeli officials and with European capitals that embraced the Gaza-Jericho agreement to pursue the recent developments concerning the mutual declaration and the final signing of the agreement.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold News Conference 7 Sep

NC0709114993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has hailed the PLO and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat for their "courageous stance" on the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

In a news conference with the Palestinian president after their talks today, President Mubarak pointed out that events now form a process of a declaration of principles, not a final solution to the issue. Every principle has many parts, which are still being discussed.

Palestinian President 'Arafat thanked President Mubarak for his open and secret efforts to push action forward on every level.

At the beginning of the news conference, President Mubarak welcomed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat saying: This time, I do not merely welcome him, but I consider that he is in his home country, Egypt, which you know has adopted the Palestine issue as its basic cause.

The Palestinian president said: I thank President Mubarak from the bottom of my heart for his open and secret efforts to push the action forward on every level.

'Arafat added: Mr. President, I tell you on behalf of our men, women, and children, thank you, thank you, and thank you for your stance and your efforts. We thank you for your constructive action through which we can proceed toward a just, permanent, and honorable peace, the peace of the courageous in the Middle East region and the peace that preserves the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab people's national rights.

Asked about the possibility of his visiting Israel in light of developments in the peace march, President Mubarak said: This subject requires no comment by us. There is peace between us and Israel. When the time comes, I will visit Israel. We have no sensitivities about this. Things are progressing and, God willing, they will develop for the better.

President Mubarak said: We are very concerned about peace and are working for it. Every head of state's objective is to raise the standard of living of his people. Any country that wants to do so must search for peace

and continue along the course of a just peace so that there can be stability and growth and the standard of living can rise.

Asked if the Gaza-Jericho agreement provides for withdrawal to specific borders, especially as Israel is saying that the borders will remain under its control and that the Allenby Bridge crossing point will be under its supervision, the Palestinian president said: "I would like to reiterate that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is a declaration of principles. An addendum or clause of this declaration provides for an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho."

'Arafat added that this means the implementation of the final settlement in Gaza and Jericho as an introduction to the transitional period in the remaining Palestinian territories.

'Arafat explained that the Allenby crossings [plural as received] are Palestinian crossings with international supervision, noting the Palestinian insistence on this point.

President Mubarak commented: "I would like to say something, because things might not be clear. Events form a declaration of principles, not a final solution of the issue."

President Mubarak added that a declaration of principles is not the end of the road, but the beginning of arduous and detailed discussion, which will take a long time, because every point consists of many details. He said the issue is not easy and hard work must be completed before a final settlement is reached.

Asked if he will make an official announcement about his current position on armed struggle, the intifadah, and terrorism, 'Arafat said: "I adhere to what I declared on this issue in Cairo in 1988."

Asked about the exchange of recognition documents between the PLO and Israel, 'Arafat said: "This is being discussed."

The Palestinian president was asked about the current measures pertaining to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and if anything remains to be done. He replied: "As I said before, some points are still being discussed. There is no need to discuss them now. Leave them to us to resolve quietly."

Asked when the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will be signed, 'Arafat said: "No definite, official date has been set, but there are a few suggestions."

On conflicting reports about the date of mutual PLO-Israeli recognition, 'Arafat answered: I have already said this is still being discussed.

Asked if he could reveal anything about the latest developments in the exchange of mutual recognition documents between Israel and the PLO, 'Arafat said: It is better to put a hold on this issue until the two parties, the Palestinian and the Israeli, reach a final decision.

President Mubarak commented, saying: There are still some discussions going on among the PLO, Israel, and the United States. Their objective is to finalize a specific formula. He expressed his hope of achieving this within the next 48 hours.

On amending the PLO Charter, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said this did not fall within his jurisdiction. It is the authority of the Palestine National Council, he said.

Asked about the development of discussions with the other Palestinian factions, such as the George Habash group, and the stance on talks with Syria, 'Arafat said: What happens on the Palestinian front always shows our democracy. Are you against democracy? We respect the views of every group or individual working in the Palestinian arena.

On his visit to Syria, 'Arafat said his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad were very useful and fruitful. He added: We reached very good results.

President Mubarak added a remark about differences in opinion among the Palestinian factions, saying: You can never make a decision and expect all the parties to agree with it 100 percent. There will always be opposition, he stated.

Labor Party's Shukri Views Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC0809071093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Sep 93 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri made the following statement on the Gaza-Jericho agreement: The Palestinian-Israeli agreement has provoked widespread controversy in the Arab homeland and elsewhere. The controversy will continue. The Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims who love Palestine are suffering great disarray. They cannot help being happy with the full withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and another spot in the West Bank.

The direct implication of the Gaza-Jericho agreement is that 750,000 Palestinians will be freed from Zionist military domination. This is not something small. The Palestinian issue also badly needs a foothold in any place, no matter how small it may be. This is a thousand times better than the Palestinian Diaspora.

But the price has been dear. We must blame the whole Arab situation before we blame the PLO. The Arab regimes have abandoned it and left it in the dark. They have left the brave Palestinian intifadah to fight alone for five years. As for the governments that have been active over the Palestinian issue, their activity was directed at pressuring the Palestinians to make more concessions.

The price is high and the loss is immense, because the agreement provides for self-rule, not a state. It provides for an interim period during Israel will have the upper hand with the power to revoke the agreement. Israel will have economic control over the newborn Palestinian entity. Israel will consider it has solved the Palestinian issue, opening the door for all the Arab regimes to normalize their relations with the Zionists and establish the so- called Middle East Market. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Communique From Sudan's al-Bashir

NC0709150093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1419 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a written message from Sudanese leader 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. It was conveyed by Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih at a meeting with President Mubarak today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

In an arrival statement in Cairo this afternoon, Abu-Salih said the message deals with the U.S. accusation that Sudan sponsors terrorism. He noted that Sudan needs Egypt's understanding of its position and concurrence of views.

He said he has brought another message from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid explaining Sudan's stand on the U.S. charges on sponsoring terrorism.

Sudan's Abu-Salih Comments After Meeting Mubarak

NC0709170393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1607 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Sudan's Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has said that President Mubarak supports Sudan and that he is working to rectify the situation that might arise from the U.S. decision to place Sudan on the list of countries that sponsor terrorism.

In a statement after meeting President Mubarak today, Abu-Salih said Sudan is eager to fully explain its stance to Mubarak to enable him to consider the decision.

Asked whether there is any development in the border issue between Egypt and Sudan, he said it has been agreed to hold the second meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers in Khartoum in October.

Commenting on the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the PLO and Israel, Abu-Salih affirmed that his country supports any Palestinian option, adding: As long as this is the Palestinians' wish, we support it.

Musa on Contacts With Pakistan, Afghanistan

NC0309182893 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that contacts are currently under way with Pakistan regarding coordination in the area of confronting terrorism and exchanging and handing over criminals. He noted that this is a legal and security matter that requires in-depth studies. Contacts with Afghanistan could also take place in this field.

Islamic Group Trial Delayed; Defendants Claim Torture

NC0409191593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court has decided to postpone until next Wednesday's [8 September] session trying the second part of the Vanguards of Conquest case in which 36 people are charged, among them 17 fugitives.

In its session this morning, the court decided to release defendant Sami Salamah 'Abd-al-Mu'min by guaranteeing his place of residence. It also asked to include the medical report of defendant Ahmad Salah al-Din among documents of the case.

The court heard a statement by defendant Sami Salamah, who pointed out that both his feet are crippled, he is plagued by kidney swelling, and that he is suffering badly inside the prison. He asked the court to release him by guaranteeing his place of residence. He affirmed that he does not know any of the defendants and did not commit any crimes.

The court also heard from the first defendant in the case, Isma'il Sulayman Nasr-al-Din, who denied that he had anything to do with terrorism or extremism. He said he has been working as an engineer in military factories since 1980.

The military prosecution charged the defendants in the case with belonging to an illegal group. The objectives of this group have been to hamper the application of the Constitution's regulations, attack the personal freedom of citizens, destroy social peace, and call for toppling the regime by force.

The prosecutor pointed out that terrorism was one of the methods used by the defendants to implement their objectives of deliberate crime and theft.

The court also charged some of the defendants with obtaining 1,000 copies of the book al-Hasad al-Murr [The Bitter Harvest] to promote it, as well as their objectives.

[Paris AFP in English at 1600 GMT carries the following Cairo datelined report: "Suspected Muslim extremists accused of belonging to an illegal organization charged

that they had been tortured by police as their trial opened at a military court here Saturday.

["The defendants are part of a group of 67 Muslim fundamentalist extremists including 17 on the run, who are accused of membership in the Tala'i' al-Fath organization 'to commit crimes,' as well as illegal possession of weapons."]

Al-Alfi Stresses Confrontation With Terrorism

NC0409195093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has announced that the all-out confrontation with terrorism will become exceedingly firm, strong, and deterrent with the aim of decisively destroying all terrorist hotbeds. He added that it is necessary for every Egyptian citizen to feel that clear, tangible, and deterrent measures are being adopted to protect society from all unlawful actions, whether they are political or merely criminal.

Al-Alfi made these remarks during his meeting today with senior Interior Ministry officials in charge of political security, criminal security, prisons, and central security; several security directors; and officials from the areas that were recently the scenes of clashes with extremist and terrorist groups.

The interior minister stressed the need to continue paying attention to the need to modernize methods, train personnel, and coordinate information and ways of confronting this problem. He said this is being done in line with the current security strategy.

The interior minister also directed traffic police to implement all necessary laws to restore orderliness to Egyptian streets to protect the citizens' lives.

Armed Forces Continue Operation 'Badr' 4-8 Sep

Army Holds Chemical Strike Exercise

NC0409200493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1553 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Al-Jaysh al-Thalith [3d Army—as received], 4 Sep (MENA)—The 3d Field Army today started to carry out the second phase of the major military exercise "Badr," which involves all the Armed Forces formations and units.

This phase involves procedures for managing the battle and developing and completing the offensive.

In today's exercise, the chemical strike was launched. The enemy hypothetically released toxic gases and resorted to chemical warfare methods by discharging many pollutants over the operation theater.

The troops taking part in the exercise successfully confronted the strike. All elements used protective masks and total and partial decontamination processes were immediately conducted on the polluted equipment. This helped curb the losses involved in the chemical strike.

The goal of the hypothetic chemical strike during the exercise was to prepare the troops for the various possibilities, including a nuclear strike, and train them in ways to tackle such a strike, while ensuring the good handling of the protective equipment and the special weapons used in fighting these types of military battles.

Today's phase involved the various 3d Army troops and branches, including infantry, artillery, and air defense forces.

The troops also applied the gap-opening approach which the Egyptian Armed Forces used very efficiently during the Gulf war.

Naval Units Drill Near Alexandria

NC0509183493 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Excerpt] As part of the Armed Forces' maneuver "Badr," several operations were conducted today off the Alexandria naval base perimeter. The tasks involved providing protection to a ship with an important cargo sailing back to Alexandria. A number of destroyers, submarines, missile boats, antisubmarine vessels, mine sweepers, and support ships took part in the exercise in cooperation with reconnaissance planes.

Guarding ships carrying important strategic cargo against hostile naval attacks is considered one of the main tasks of our naval forces. Ships carrying important cargo are provided with protection against hostile submarines and enemy intervention. The units also opened gaps in mine fields and missile units and coastal artillery provided protection against hostile intervention.

The exercise also involved the discovery of a hostile submarine by the patrol units assigned the task of protecting the naval base perimeter. The location of the submarine was determined and orders were given to antisubmarine units to separate from the protection formation and proceed to the submarine location to engage and destroy it by depth missiles. Submarine combat is considered to be one of the most complicated tasks in view of a submarine's under water operations and the factor of secrecy and surprise.

The missile boats, in cooperation with reconnaissance aircraft, then discovered other hostile targets. Their locations were determined and dealt with by surface-to-surface missiles. Egyptian naval units have demonstrated high competence and capability in the use of surface-to-surface missiles in the battles they have fought. [passage omitted]

Army Participates in Mock Attack

NC0709191893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1824 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Ismailia, 7 Sep (MENA)—The Armed Forces continued for the seventh consecutive day to engage in combat activities constituting the third phase of the large-scale military maneuver "Badr" being held on all strategic fronts.

Armored and mechanized infantry formations of the 2d Field Army, backed with artillery, air defense, and military engineering units, waged an attack on a major axis. The attacking force managed to breach enemy lines and send mechanized infantry units, backed with tanks and artillery, to cross a large water barrier by use of unconventional means.

Meanwhile, the other side used its air force and engaged in jamming and electronic warfare activities.

The attacking force performed several maneuvering tactics and employed alternative methods to cross the water barrier. With excellent timing and coordination of activities, military engineering, military police, and technical and medical supporting units took part in the drills. Air defense forces participated in securing the site of the crossing against hostile aircraft.

The commander of the attacking troops decided to dispatch an armored formation to develop the attack and seize land occupied by the defending force. The attacking units, made up of tanks and mechanized infantry, advanced on three axes. Supporting them were artillery, air defense, electronic and chemical warfare, and air force units.

The attacking formations assaulted the defending forces, who were deployed on a hilly terrain. The commander of the defending forces decided to launch a counterattack on the attacking units but the attacking forces succeeded in repulsing and destroying the counterattack, seized the hills, and occupied the mountain straits.

The final and biggest part of the large-scale exercise, which will take place tomorrow, Wednesday [8 September], will see armored formations of the 2d and 3d Armies engaging in battles involving tank support.

Third Phase Begins

NC0809081693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—The third phase of the major military exercise "Badr," the biggest carried out by the Egyptian Army, began today with the participation of all the Armed Forces branches.

Conducted by the 2d Field Army, the exercise involves an attack by the blue forces against the green forces, in which armored units backed by artillery and air defense seek to open a gap in the green defenses.

The attack comes in response to an aborted land assault, in which the green forces repulsed a sea-landing operation by enemy troops on its coast. The blue troops were chased off the green forces' land.

The blue forces commander decides to attack the green forces along a different axis to turn the battle in his favor. He resorts to penetration, encirclement, and dispersion of the green troops by engaging them on more than one front and striking at them.

In this phase, after three days of offensive operations, the blue troops create a gap along one of the green forces' major lines. Blue armored troops break a water barrier with the support of artillery and air defense. The troops then try to expand the coastal point they seized to the place where it joins the green coast.

More blue troops push ahead west of the water barrier, despite green attempts to hinder the crossing by staging constant air sorties over the bridges and crossings the attacking troops built and by applying electronic war methods, notably jamming blue troop communications.

The blue troops employ various crossing methods, including bridges, amphibian vehicles, and ferries. They seize a green force axis and start to secure and organize movement in the crossing area. The offensive starts to threaten the full extent of the green state.

The commander of the attacking armored force decides to maintain his success. He puts pressure on the green defenses, which were operating on a mountainous area with the help of the air force and electronic and chemical warfare methods.

The green state's artillery secures the reorganization of its troops and tanks falling back fire smoke screens to cover their retreat. The green troops attempt a counterattack to push the attacking forces back. But the blue forces repulse the counterattack and gain more land under artillery backing. They push ahead into the depths of the green state, where a green armored formation waits to repulse the advance.

Today's exercise demonstrated the efficiency of the Egyptian fighter, his accuracy in hitting his target, and his proper use of camouflage, deception, and electronic warfare methods.

The exercise in general and this phase in particular showed the capability of the Egyptian commander, his speed in making decisions in the most difficult situations and according to circumstances and developments, and his optimum use of weapons and equipment.

Sudan

Mubarak Message Outlines Stance on U.S. Listing

NC0709111093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—A responsible Sudanese diplomatic source has stated that the message Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih will deliver to President Husni Mubarak tomorrow deals with the U.S. decision to place Sudan on the list of countries harboring terrorism. He will explain Sudan's stance on this decision.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, he said the visit comes within the framework of the diplomatic and political moves Sudan is making to confront this decision within the framework of Egypt's presidency of the OAU and the role Egypt plays to realize peace on the continent.

The source expressed confidence that the U.S. Administration erred when it made its decision, because it made it without foundation. He stressed that Sudan categorically rejects being accused of things that ruin its relations with others.

Oman

'Arafat Holds News Conference at End of Visit

LD0709224293 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 7 Sep 93

[News conference by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, with unidentified correspondents in Salalah on 7 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Arafat] It is an honor to pay such a visit to meet with his majesty the sultan, particularly in these important times of destiny for the Palestinian cause, in particular, and the Arab cause, in general. At these moments which followed the recent agreement which we are about to sign with the Israelis, we came to inform his majesty the sultan about the full details of the situation and all its aspects. I am proud to say that this session with is majesty was a very friendly one, it was positive and constructive. As usual, it was a successful session. We listened to his valuable remarks. At the same time we explained to him the full situation with all its aspects and details. We also explained what we expect during the coming few days. The meeting and the advice were, as I said, very important and very positive. [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. President: There is some ambiguity related to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the principles. Could you please explain the dimensions of the agreement and give clearer details of the agreement.

['Arafat] In fact, it is a mistake to call it [the] Gaza-Jericho agreement. It is not Gaza-Jericho agreement. Gaza-Jericho is Article 27 of the agreement. It is one of the appendixes of the agreement.

This is an agreement on the principles, a declaration of principles, which we and the Israelis have been negotiating and trying to reach for 22 months during the talks which took place in Madrid and in Washington. Therefore, it is a declaration of principles.

As you know, as a Palestinian people we agreed to go to Madrid [in a situation] different from the Arab situation. The brothers in Syria went [to Madrid] to finalize the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. The Lebanese brothers went to finalize the Israeli withdrawal from the border zone in southern Lebanon. Also the Jordanian brothers ...[changes thought] ... but we went knowing that there is a transitional period for our people, which is called the transitional autonomy of the transitional Palestinian government. In English it is Palestinian interim self-government authority.

We went to Madrid under difficult conditions. We accepted these difficult and coercive conditions. Because of the international situation and because of the wish to achieve a real and just peace, and to put an end to the occupation of our Palestinian and Arab land, we said we accept these difficult conditions. We went to Madrid, then after that we continued in Washington. At the same time the multilateral talks were taking place in Tokyo, Norway, Paris, Austria, Canada and Japan.

Unfortunately in Washington we reached what is more-or-less a difficult course. When you reach a difficult course it is natural that we and the American side; the Russian side, the co-sponsor; the Israeli side and other mediators, including the Norwegians and others, would try to find a breakthrough in the impasse that was reached at the negotiations.

Indeed various contacts, in various places and between various sides and persons, took place between us and the Israelis. Some of them were in Europe, others in Cairo, Washington, and Norway in order to find a way out. Some of these contacts succeeded, such as the ones that took place in Norway. Others failed because as soon as these contacts become known the Israelis retreated. As you know, there is an Israeli characteristic—God be praised—they attack each other and ruin everything.

Brothers, in the project about which I have talked, we have at the end arrived at this agreement. The agreement is a declaration of principles for the establishment of the authority of the Palestinian transitional self-government on all the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

[Correspondent] Not only Gaza and Jericho?

['Arafat] Not only Gaza and Jericho. At the beginning of the third year of the transitional authority, the search starts for the final phase which leads to the independent Palestinian state. Through this agreement, we have managed to arrive at a complete withdrawal [of Israeli forces] from Gaza and Jericho, i.e. we have applied to Gaza and Jericho the phases of the final solution at the beginning of the transitional solution. [As for] security, there will be Palestinian police throughout all the Palestinian territory. Authority will be gradually transferred to the Palestinian government in all spheres, not only in three or four spheres as some newspapers say, no, in all spheres. The military government will withdraw, and the civilian administration of the Israeli occupation will be dissolved, and elections will take place after nine months. Two months after the signing of the agreement, the Israel withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho will start, and a complete withdrawal will take place. The most important thing is that Jerusalem will participate in these forthcoming elections, i.e. our people in Jerusalem will participate, and for the first time we will put Jerusalem on the agenda [though] they [Israelis] say that Jerusalem is a red line. I told them that if Jerusalem is a red line for you, I, praise be to God, have four red lines for Jerusalem, a Palestinian red line, an Arab red line, an Islamic red line, and a Christian red line. Therefore, the people of Jerusalem will participate in the elections by nominating [candidates] and voting, and also our institutions, including our religious sites, Islamic and Christian.

There are the emigres who left after 1967. These are expected to return immediately. The old refugees are also on the agenda as from the third year. We will, of

course, need at least the first two years to finish [the issue of] the emigres. Once this emigres' [issue] is finished, we will start with the refugees' issue which we will discuss in the third year.

The settlements will be discussed in the third year, on [condition] that they are frozen and unexpanded during the transitional period. They do not expand during the transitional period. The PLO is, of course, responsible for the totality of this subject, be it in Gaza or Jericho, or the rest of the territories lying in the transitional period [words indistinct]. The most important thing: Why did we say Gaza and Jericho? So there would be unity of land and people. This is what the PLO symbolizes. The PLO is the combative identity and existence of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories.

Also the settlements will be at the final stage. As for the police, there will be Palestinian police responsible for internal security in all the Palestinian territories and Palestinian national security forces will enter Gaza and Jericho from abroad.

In addition to that there will be, as Abu-Mahir says, the withdrawal of the military government from all the territories occupied in 1967. There will also be a withdrawal and redeployment of the military forces in the rest of the territories, i.e. they will completely withdraw from Gaza and Jericho, but in the rest of the territories they will withdraw from the towns, villages, camps and populated areas to agreed places. This is until the final stage when they will completely withdraw from them. [Addressing unseen person] Have I forgotten anything Yasir Abu-Mahir?

In the ninth month a legislative council will be elected. The elections will commence in the ninth month after signing the agreement. A legislative council will be elected. It will be responsible for al the Palestinian territories—in Gaza, Jericho and the rest of the Palestinian territories which were occupied in 1967. After that the council will form a Palestinian interim government.

On this occasion I would like to take the opportunity during my visit to this fraternal country to salute and greet and send my respect and love to my brothers in all the Gulf countries. I would like to thank them, in particular, for their statement, which was issued by the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The statement was clear and explicit and concentrated on two important points: The issue of the final solution and the issue of Jerusalem. This was a consolidation of the Palestinian stand. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Is there another tour after Oman?

['Arafat] We have the meetings of the [PLO] Executive Committee. Therefore, I have to return [to Tunis] tomorrow because I have the meetings of the Executive Committee tomorrow because of the issues [as heard]. Before coming here I sent a special message to his majesty the sultan to brief him. I sent a special message to His Majesty King Fahd, a message to brief him. I visited a number of my Arab brother leaders and consulted with them. Some of them have graciously helped us in pushing the matters forward.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, there are reports that within the coming hours there will be a mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. How much truth is there in this news?

['Arafat] Not yet. This is a problem. Look here, there were expectations that it would have been concluded today, or even yesterday. There are still some issues that have not been decided. The Israelis as usual are trying to set conditions. We say the peace of the brave and do not impose conditions here and there.

[Correspondent] Thank you Mr. President. We wish you a happy stay.

Departs Muscat 8 Sep

JN0809103393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Salalah, 8 Sep (WAKH)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Muscat today at the end of a visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit he held important talks with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, who emphasized the sultanate's support and his majesty's blessing for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

In a statement yesterday, the Palestinian president described his talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus as "positive and warm" and said he heard "his majesty's valuable views and remarks."

He also said that he briefed Sultan Qabus on all the details of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Saudi Arabia

Lebanese Premier, Arab League Chief Pay Visit

King Receives al-Hariri, 'Abd-al-Majid

LD0709223893 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri and His Excellency 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, in his office at Salam Palace today. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan Comments on Talks

LD0809005093 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Jeddah, 7 Sep (SPA)—Following the reception today by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, for His Excellency the prime minister of Lebanon and His Excellency the secretary general of the Arab League, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-Abd-l-'Aziz al Sa'ud, second

deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, in response to questions from the Lebanese mass media on the progress of the talks, pointed out that Lebanon and the Kingdom are an indivisible entity and that the talks were complete.

Concerning the situation in Lebanon at present, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said "as long as cohesion persists and patriotism is growing, as we have seen in Lebanon, then Lebanon is well with God's might."

His Highness answered a question about the extent of his satisfaction over the implementation of the Ta'if agreement by saying: "Ask the others, because we serve the cause. Ask whoever opposes the cause."

Foreign Minister Meets UK's Douglas Hurd

LD0709231993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2225 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 7 Sep (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister, met this evening in the Conference Hall in Jeddah with His Excellency Mr. Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs.

Bilateral relations between the two countries and issues of common interest were discussed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

Arrests Among University Professors Continue

PM0709155793 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4-5 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Riyadh: Large-Scale Arrests Among University Professors Supporting Committee For Defense Of Legitimate Rights"]

[Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Saudi investigation services arrested Dr. Ahmad al-Tuwayjari last Monday [30 August] afternoon. About 10 security men thoroughly searched his house, including his bedroom and library. They seized numerous items from his library. Dr. Ahmad enjoys respect inside the university and among intellectuals and has cultural and intellectual contributions to his name. He was the dean of the King Sa'ud University Faculty of Education for nine years. He resigned from his post nearly a year ago and set up a legal office.

Dr. Ahmad's arrests is part of a large-scale arrest campaign inside King Sa'ud University, the largest Saudi university, where 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Wuhaybi, lecturer in the physics department, was arrested on 28 August. 'Abdallah al-Wuhaybi, editor at the RISALAT AL-JAMI'AH newspaper, was arrested on 25 August. Dr. Sa'id al-Faqih, assistant professor in the faculty of medicine and a consultant surgeon, was arrested on 18 August. Dr. Muhsin al-'Awaji, assistant professor in the faculty of agriculture, was arrested on 17 August. Dr. Salih al-Wuhaybi, associate professor at the faculty of arts was also arrested on 17 August.

This arrest campaign was preceded by a decision preventing 60 King Sa'ud University professors from travel after they sent a letter to the king urging the release of Dr. al-Mas'ari. King Sa'ud University professors are currently living in a state of uncertainty, as they do not know who the next victim is—which impacts on their families, who are in constant fear that their homes might be stormed by the investigation services.

In addition to these detainees some people were arrested a month ago. They include Professor Muhammad al-Mas'ari, spokesman for the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights [CDLR] and professor in the physics department. He is currently in solitary confinement and being tortured. There is also Dr. Khalid al-Humaydi, assistant professor in the chemistry department. He too is in solitary confinement. This is in addition to Professor 'Ali Mahmud of the faculty of medicine, who suffers from diabetes; Husayn Salah, secretary in the physics department; and Yahya Dawud, a technician in the same department.

This is also linked with the arrest of CDLR member lawyer Sulayman al-Rushudi a month ago. It has been leaked from prison that he is in solitary confinement and being tortured. This is in addition to Professor 'Abdallah al-Hamid of the Imam College, who has been in prison for over three months. He suffers from diabetes.

United Arab Emirates

UK Foreign Secretary Pays Visit, Holds Talks

President al-Nuhayyan Receives Hurd

LD0709173893 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president, today received His Excellency British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting they discussed the current situation in the region, efforts to bring about Middle East peace and the proposed peace plan between the PLO and Israel, as well as cooperation and friendship between the two countries and ways of promoting them. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Douglas Hurd confirmed his country's continuous position in supporting peace efforts and bringing about peace in the Middle East region. During a news conference he held this afternoon at the British Embassy he pointed out that his current visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], which will be followed by a visit to Saudi Arabia, is aimed in this direction [supporting peace efforts]. He stressed that the role of the Gulf Arab states is important in achieving Arab-Israeli peace, but those countries must decide that themselves. He indicated that he had discussed with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan ways providing political support for the agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Hurd confirmed that it is up to all Arabs to decide the role that they can play to achieve peace in the region and to bring about reconciliation among themselves. He noted that Shaykh Zayid has frequently called for reunification [of Arabs]. He said that the situation has now begun to change and a new situation has appeared which heralds the beginning of the end of the bitter Arab-Israeli conflict.

The British foreign secretary indicated that he had discussed with his majesty the economic sanctions which the United Nations imposed on Iraq and stated that they will not be lifted until Security Council resolutions on that matter have been implemented. He stressed that he had presented Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan with a clear idea of his last talks before visiting the UAE with Jordan's King Husayn and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He also discussed with his majesty the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and the situation in the region in general and the Arab-Arab conciliation issue.

In response to a question on the possibility of holding a meeting with the PLO chairman, the British foreign secretary said there are no plans to meet 'Arafat, but there are ties between Britain and the PLO.

Hurd also denied any agreement with Libya on the Lockerbie issue, and he said that what is going on now is between British lawyers, for example, and between Libya, and not between the two governments.

He said European Community states will continue to provide financial support to the residents of the occupied territories, but indicated that the new circumstances created by the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will require more of this financial aid.

On his visit this evening to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the British foreign secretary said that it will be on the same line [as his UAE visit] and he stressed that his country will continue supporting efforts exerted to bring about peace in the Middle East region. He confirmed his government's support for the UAE in its demand for the three islands [Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tunb islands occupied by Iran] and praised the policy which the UAE is pursuing in that matter.

He praised economic ties between the two countries, indicating that the size of trade exchange has reached more than $1 billion, with a 55 percent increase over last year.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd left the country this evening heading for Riyadh after a one-day visit to the UAE during which he met with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the country's president. [passage omitted]

Support for Gaza-Jericho Plan Underscored

JN0709201693 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 7 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Britain affirmed today their support for the Middle East peace process and expressed hope that it would lead to a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The two countries also welcomed the Gaza-Jericho autonomy plan as a first step within the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue.

The issue was discussed at a meeting between [words indistinct] and Douglas Hurd. The two ministers called for putting an end to the tragedy of the Bosnian people and underlined the need for implementing international peace and security in the Balkans. The meeting also dealt with UAE-British relations.

Saddam Chairs RCC-Ba'th Party Command Meeting

JN0509112793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1104 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], a number of RCC members, and members of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office.

Price Increases Continue on Food, Luxury Items

JN0709111093 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Sep 93 p 4

[By Rawiyah Hashim]

[Excerpt] Prices for food and luxury items on our local markets in Baghdad and the governorates are still surging. This time, the price increases hit school uniforms, book bags, clothes, footwear, and baby milk.

AL-JUMHURIYAH has observed that a large number of street peddlers are spread all over the sidewalks, offering large amounts of foodstuffs and different luxury items in al-Kazimiyah, al-Shurjah, and al-'Arabi markets. Due to prices, the increase in supply has not been met with an increase in demand. [passage omitted]

Saddam Said To Order Execution of Military Officers

NC0709144093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] The dimensions of the new massacre that despot and executioner Saddam Husayn has committed against the sons of the Iraqi people and some well-known members of the Tikrit clan on the pretext of their plotting against his renegade regime are becoming clearer day by day.

The magazine AL-WASAT reports today that Saddam personally supervised last week the execution of 210 senior military officers, including 30 officers from Tikrit town. The magazine said these victims, as usual, were not tried by any court and that the order for their execution was issued by Saddam Husayn personally.

SAIRI Official Says Saddam's Downfall 'Imminent'

NC0709180293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Yasin al-Musawi, member of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution [SAIRI] in Iraq, held a news conference in al-Sulaymaniyah this evening. He spoke about the harsh living conditions the inhabitants of the marshlands in southern Iraq are facing and the heroic resistance the fighters of the Iraqi opposition are putting up there.

Al-Musawi affirmed that cracks and differences have begun to appear within the ruling military regime in Iraq. He indicated that the downfall of Saddam's regime is imminent.

On the meetings he held recently with brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and brother Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, al-Musawi said these meetings were very fruitful and dealt with all current issues.

Government Attack Reported in Wasit Governorate

NC0509165393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] According to an urgent dispatch from inside the afflicted homeland, large numbers of the tyrant regime's forces have launched a three-pronged attack on the al-Jazirah area, which consists of permanently swampy marshlands, in al-Kut [Wasit] Governorate in the country's central area. The report says that the first prong of the attack moved from the direction of al-'Amarah, the second from al-Nasiriyah, and the third from the north.

According to reports, [words indistinct] raged in the area. The clashes between the forces and the citizens were still continuing when this report was prepared. The two sides have suffered severe human losses.

Officers taken prisoner by the revolutionaries said that [name indistinct], Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and senior commanders are present at the battle site and are directly supervising it.

The ostracized regime had massed large numbers of troops around al-Jazirah, which continues to lie outside its area of domination, in preparation for this offensive [words indistinct].

Army Attack Repulsed in Karkuk

NC0709174293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Large military forces belonging to the fascist ruling regime in Baghdad, supported by the regime's armed agents, attacked (Qaraqah) village in Karkuk Governorate on the morning of 4 September. They were confronted by the heroic peshmerga forces and local forces in the area. During a decisive battle that lasted several hours, the peshmerga inflicted horrible defeat on the enemy forces and killed a number of agents.

The enemy's brutal attack led to the death of a citizen. A few hours after its shameful defeat, the enemy shelled the region with artillery. The shelling caused no losses.

7 Sep Talks With Palestinians, Syrians Summed Up

TA0709192293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Report by Hayim Zissowitz]

[Text] [Zissowitz] The negotiations with the Palestinians resumed in Washington today, and both the Israelis and Palestinians believe that the signing ceremony between Israel and the PLO will take place in Washington on Monday [13 September], as scheduled. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Amir] Good evening. The first day of discussions with the Palestinians this week ended a short while ago, with positive declarations by Eytan Bentzur and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi about the chances that the PLO institutions will ratify the agreement and the mutual recognition. Bentzur noted he had held a long conversation with Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi on this issue, and that in his opinion, 'Abd-al-Shafi softened his initial position toward the agreement. According to Bentzur, the members of the other delegations [as heard] had held a practical talk on the implementation of the agreement after its signing. At the end of the meeting, the two delegations' leaders estimated that the ceremony of signing the agreement will take place on Monday as scheduled, or as 'Abd-al-Shafi defined it, on the day determined by the Americans.

[Jerusalem Qiol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 7 September adds: "Eytan Bentzur told our correspondent Moti Amir that in a tete-a-tete meeting 'Abd-al-Shafi told him that 'Arafat is managing to muster wide support for the agreement in the Arab world, and that Syria's announcement on the Palestinian issue is also interpreted as support for the agreement."]

[Zissowitz] Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, the head of the Israeli delegation for talks with Syria, this evening denied a report published in 'AL HAMISHMAR today, whereby Israel will propose that Syria regain control of Majdal Shams first. Professor Rabinovich said this upon arriving at the State Department for the new week of deliberations in Washington. Arye Golan reports:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Against the background of increasing expectations for real progress on the Israeli-Syrian track as well, Ambassador Rabinovich made it clear this evening that never has Majdal Shams been discussed with the Syrians.

[Rabinovich] The Majdal Shams question is a separate issue. It has not been raised on the agenda of these talks at all. This pair of words—Majdal Shams—has not been mentioned in the deliberations hall during the 13 months in which I have been present there. Therefore, this report seems fabricated and untrue to me.

[Golan] Still, the great progress made between Israel and the Palestinians is arousing the hopes of the leaders of the Israeli delegation for talks with Lebanon. Following are remarks by Uri Lubrani:

[Lubrani] I hope that today, following the earthshaking and promising developments which have taken place on the other tracks, especially the Palestinian one, a basis will perhaps be formed for progress on our track, too. We all hope so. Let us wait and see. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1800 GMT on 7 September reports that speaking of the agreement with the Palestinians Rabinovich said: "The assumption is that if there is agreement soon, there will be a signing ceremony in the White House, and I very much hope that this [words indistinct] that we are all invited, but this has not happened yet. If it happens, I think an impressive signing ceremony will send a very powerful message to the Middle East, that even parties who were considered to be sworn enemies and who could not seriously come to bury the hatchet have been able to make significant progress, and, of course, there will be an important lesson for those parts of the conflict that remain fully active and hopefully it will be a source of inspiration for all of us to move forward in the [words indistinct] of the peace process." "Israel's ambassador adds a visit to the region by Secretary of State Warren Christopher in October would be welcome. In the talks, there was no progress reported between Israel and Syria. Stalemate persists over the basic issues. The talks with the Palestinians were short and both sides are waiting further developments."]

Peres Denies 'Behind-the-Scenes' Contacts With Syria

TA0709114993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said there are no behind-the-scenes contacts between Israel and Syria and that Majdal Shams First is just someone's private idea. Minister Peres was speaking to Ort-'Emeq Harod high school students. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports on the minister's remarks, in which he confirmed that the peace with Egypt is a cold peace.

[Begin recording] [Peres] If we are talking about peace and the weather, I would rather have peace in a cool weather than war in a warm weather. In my opinion, cool peace is better than hot war. With Egypt we have a state of half-peace. Why do I say that? Because Egypt has made peace with the Israeli people on the one hand, and maintained close peace and economic relations with Arab countries that do not have peace with Israel on the other.

[Question by unidentified student] We know the formula that says that the Jordan River is our security border. Is this formula still valid?

[Peres] The answer is definitely yes. There has been no change in that respect. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] retains its duty to protect the land this side of the

Jordanian border. According to the agreement we are about to sign, no Arab army will cross the Jordan River. [end recording]

Recognition Letters in 'Final Stages'

TA0709160093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the letters of mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel are in the final stages of formulation. In an interview with Qobi Meydan on the "As of Now" program today, Peres said that there were some still disagreements between the parties; however, Israel was in no rush to reach the stage of mutual recognition.

[Begin recording] [Peres] We are still trying to iron out the remaining differences while adhering to two basic principles: There will be absolutely no compromise on any issues pertaining to security, nor will there be any concessions on any issues related to Jerusalem. I can only say that the differences between the parties are not great.

[Meydan] In other words, the process is still progressing. Nothing is stuck?

[Peres] No, no. There are some issues we disagree upon, but we are not in any hurry. We have a great deal of patience with regard to this matter. Besides, the prime minister and myself have held consultations about every single sentence and word. We are handling the contacts very quietly and we do not have to supply headlines five times a day.

[Meydan] What about the negotiations with the Syrians? There are all kinds of reports about Majdal Shams, and Israel's recognition of Syrian sovereignty?

[Peres] I do not know about any change on the ground. The information in my possession, and I am speaking solely for myself so as not to trip anyone up, speaks more of a change in the atmosphere than in facts on the ground. As long as there are no changes in the field, all these reports should be taken with a grain of salt.

[Meydan] Speaking today, at this point in time, did the breakthrough with the Palestinians facilitate negotiations with the Syrians or make them more difficult?

[Peres] Who knows? I assume it made things easier; however, I cannot tell you that with certainty because Syria is run by one man, who is not always completely forthright about his thoughts. [end recording]

Does Not Rule Out Confederation

NC0809122093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres does not rule out a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederation after five years, the proposed transitional period for the Palestinian self-government.

In an interview with Friday's [3 September] AL-MUSAWWAR, Peres described the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on Gaza and Jericho as a new deal and a starting point for change. We are serious about this step and view it as a starting point for change, he said, adding that the people's success in Gaza must be viewed as an Israeli success.

If bilateral talks in Washington are trying to find solutions for the problems of the past, we are now discussing the future and solving economic problems through committees that will be set up for economic development, Peres said.

He added: We are talking about an exhaustive deal that covers both the political and the economic solutions, because political action cannot work without an economic solution. He noted that intense efforts are being made to allocate the funds necessary for economic development in Gaza. He noted that the United States, Europe, Japan, and the Gulf states have already earmarked $750 million for that purpose. He noted, too, that contacts are under way with the World Bank to provide the necessary funds over a 10-year period and that Scandinavian states will pay $125 million.

Peres remarked that the future of relations with the PLO needs a five-year transitional period, which is enough to heal anything. Time is the best healer, he said, adding that the agreement is a set of principles developed by experts. He noted that settlements will remain as they are during that period.

Referring to Jerusalem, the Israeli foreign minister said it will remain united as an Israeli capital open to all religions.

We are now working to eliminate the obstacles hindering mutual recognition and the letters necessary for that, Peres said. He added that although the two sides agree on the elements of these letters, they have not agreed on the phrasing.

Peres pointed out that the two sides have approved the declaration of principles, which is an independent agreement that can stand alone and is not linked with the signing of agreements along the other tracks.

The Israeli foreign minister said external security will be under Israel's control during the transitional period, while internal security will be entrusted to a strong Palestinian police force.

He remarked that daily life will face no problems as long as the violence ends. He warned that the recurrence of violence will bring back with it all the necessary security procedures designed to safeguard Israel's security.

At the end of the interview, the Israeli foreign minister welcomed a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, noting that it would find one solution to future problems.

Ministry Officials Fly to Europe for Contacts With PLO

TA0809081193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Senior sources at the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry have expressed the assessment that all the details permitting mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel will be completed by the end of the week or perhaps by Sunday, 12 September. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. Their assessment is that the cabinet will then be asked to approve Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' departure to Washington in order to sign the agreement.

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and, possibly, also legal adviser Yo'el Zinger flew to Europe yesterday, apparently in order to hold further contacts prior to the declaration of mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

IDF To Maintain Control of Jordan River Bridges

TA0709205193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Israel will not settle for a letter from Yasir 'Arafat endorsing its right to exist, but demands that this recognition be adopted by the PLO Executive Committee. This has been reported by diplomatic sources in Cairo. The sources added that this committee will convene in Tunis tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.

It has been stated in Jerusalem that it will be the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] that will control the Jordan River bridges at the entrances to and exits from the territories to which the autonomy will apply. This was emphasized in the prime minister's bureau, in reaction to 'Arafat's remarks that it is the PLO that will control the Jordan River bridges. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports that no progress has been made in recent days toward mutual Israel-PLO recognition.

PLO Said Incapable of Assuring Internal Security

TA0709174993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Shlomo Gazit, former head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, today revealed that a senior PLO official had told him that the PLO would be incapable of assuming responsibility for internal security within the four months stipulated in the agreement of principles with Israel. Gazit also warned of the danger of a civil war between the Palestinians in the territories. Hadar Vismonsky reports:

[Begin recording] [Vismonsky] Major General, reserves, Shlomo Gazit, now the head of the Center for Strategic Studies, today said that the IDF chief of staff was not the only one who was not consulted when the agreement with the Palestinians was formulated. Neither were the PLO elements in charge of security, Gazit asserted.

The former head of the IDF Intelligence Branch said he had met with a senior PLO security official who told him that the PLO would not be able to assume responsibility for internal security within the four months stipulated in the agreement. The agreement has still not been consolidated, Gazit said, and there is nothing to worry about because Israel remains in charge of overall security in Gaza and Jericho. This does not greatly differ from the present situation, Gazit noted. Shlomo Gazit warned about the possibility of civil war in the territories between the Palestinians. However, he said that this would be a problem for the PLO to handle, not Israel. As for the possibility of a terrorist carrying out an attack inside Israel and then fleeing to Gaza, the former general explained that even today Israel's options were very limited in the event of a terrorist attack from Egypt or Jordan. That would also be the case with terrorist attacks from inside Gaza. The Palestinians must understand, Gazit said, that a large-scale terrorist attack, or the launching of katyusha rockets would result in an immediate restoration of the previous situation. Therefore, it would be in their own interest to keep things quiet. [end recording]

Shahal on Plans for Gaza Prisoners Under Autonomy

TA0809111693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Sep 93 p 3

[Report by Uri Sharon]

[Excerpt] "We have begun the speedy evacuation of the prison in Gaza, which currently houses 750 inmates. Of these, 300 criminal prisoners will remain in this prison during the autonomy period, while the rest (political prisoners) will be transferred to other jails in Israel."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal made these remarks yesterday when asked how the problem of the prisoners will be settled when autonomy is established in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Shahal was speaking at a Prison Service conference presided over by Commissioner Arye Bibi and held in Caesarea's amphitheater.

He noted that the emerging agreement with the Palestinians makes no special mention of the prisoner issue. As for the prisons in Judaea and Samaria, he said there are contingency plans on how to deal with the prisoners upon the establishment of autonomy in the territories.

Asked whether the prisoners of the intifadah would be released upon the implementation of the peace agreement, Shahal said: "Prisoners whose hands are tainted with blood will not be released." [passage omitted]

Demonstrators, Policemen Injured in Protest

TA0809054593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Just after 2 o'clock [0000 GMT] this morning, heavy police reinforcements moved in to disperse several thousand demonstrators near the Prime Minister's

Office. They had been protesting throughout the night over the government's endorsement of the PLO agreement. No'omi Segal has more details:

The police used water cannons and batons early this morning to forcibly remove right-wing demonstrators blocking the street outside the Prime Minister's Office. Twenty-four demonstrators and seven police officers were injured; at least 18 demonstrators were arrested.

About 60,000 people were at the protest during its height last night. Many left after several hours, but about 2,500 remained for the night. Police asked the protesters to leave at 1 AM, but organizers refused. At that point, police began to forcibly remove the demonstrators, using batons and water cannons. The police moved the demonstrators onto the hill opposite the Prime Minister's Office. At that point, demonstrators tried to set fire to a Border Police jeep and threw stones and firecrackers at police from the hilly area.

About 500 [as heard] demonstrators remained overnight, and organizers of the protest say they expect more people to arrive in the next few days. A spokesman for the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, Yisra'el Meydad, told us this morning that the demonstrators will not try to block entry to the Prime Minister's Office but will remain in the area, possibly blocking roads and passing out leaflets. The police spokesman says heavy reinforcements will remain in the area.

Energy Minister Plans To Meet Jordanian Counterpart

JN0709185193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Moshe Shahal, minister of police and energy, today said he plans in the next few days to meet with the Jordanian energy minister during his visit to Egypt to discuss the possibility of linking the power grids as well as cooperation among regional states in the field of energy.

In an interview with our correspondent Kayid Zahir, Shahal added that there is no direct link between signing the agreement with the Palestinians and mutual recognition with the PLO. He added that the agreement may be signed before the recognition.

Minister Shahal's statements were made during a visit he made today to Jericho. He was accompanied by the Police Commissioner General (Rafi Peled). [passage omitted]

High Court: Der'i, Pinhasi Must Resign Cabinet Posts

TA0809075693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Approximately 30 minutes ago, the five judges of the High Court of Justice unanimously ruled that Interior Minister Arye Der'i and Deputy Minister Refa'el Pinhasi must resign from their posts. The judges ruled that it would only be appropriate for the prime minister to exercise his authority according to Articles 21 and 36 of the Basic Law: The Government and relieve Der'i and Pinhasi of their posts. Der'i's attorney told IDF Radio that the two men will first study the judges' ruling and then decide how to react. Rabbi Pinhasi was not surprised by the ruling and said that now he can resume his duties as a Knesset member [MK].

SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MK Moshe Maya said that the High Court of Justice ruling was only to be expected in light of the public opinion campaign waged against SHAS. The High Court judges are only human, MK Maya said, and they also have their prejudices. He added that the SHAS faction is waiting for Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef to reach a decision regarding their future participation in the coalition.

Here are some reactions from other MK's. Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili told us a short time ago that he is certain that the prime minister will follow the High Court of Justice's recommendations.

Likud MK Mikha'el Eytan says that the High Court ruling was expected in light of the serious charges against the two men. These were no technical violations or irresponsible slipups, he said. The charge sheets deal with suspected felonies which, if proven true, will constitute the most serious crimes ever committed by an Israeli Government official.

MAPAM Minister Denies Reported Departure for Tunis

TA0709202893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban says he does not intend to leave for Tunis at the head of a MAPAM [United Workers Party, a Meretz party component] delegation. Minister Tzaban was reacting to an announcement by Latif Dori, a MAPAM member, issued in Tunis today, whereby a MAPAM delegation would leave for Tunisia's capital in the coming days.

Iraqis Arrested by Israel Elude Police Chase

JN0809075593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Sep 93 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Four Iraqis, who were arrested by Israeli authorities near the demarcation line between Jordan and the Jewish state, had escaped a police chase in the Jordanian desert, according to security sources.

The sources said the four were riding [in] one of two vans which were chased by police in the early hours of Friday [3 September]. One of the vans was intercepted; the other was "lost" in the Wadi al-'Arabah region.

Three Iraqi nationals riding the intercepted vehicles, identified as a large GMC van, were detained. The van was found carrying arms, suggesting that the group was involved in weapon smuggling, according to the source.

The main item in the arms haul was 14-millimetre guns. Iraq is known to produce similar guns.

Reporting on the other four who were detained by the Israelis, the JERUSALEM POST quoted a military source as saying that an army patrol crossed into Jordanian territory near a Jewish settlement to arrest the four, "who waved a white flag to attract their attention."

"The four were dressed in civilian clothes and carried Iraqi (identification) cards. No equipment was found in their possession," the JERUSALEM POST reported.

The report did not mention any vehicle.

Other Israeli reports said the four were believed to be Iraqis whose residency papers in Jordan had expired and did not want to go back to their country in the absence of visas to travel to any other destination.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan. "Investigations are continuing," the source said.

In the wake of the disarming of the bulk of the one-million strong Iraq's Popular Army after the Gulf war in 1991, light weapons possessed by the militia become a favourite for smugglers into Jordan.

Members of the Iraqi Popular Army were reportedly selling their light arms to smugglers to raise money to cope with the hardships resulting from the international sanctions against Iraq. The sanctions were imposed after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in [the] possession of Jordanians who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

Early this year, the government enforced strict regulations governing possession of arms and has been collecting all weapons except licensed personal arms from the public.

Gaza-Jericho Not 'Binding' for Future Generations

JN0709103893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Sep 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Peace of a Generation or Generations?"]

[Excerpts] Any peace the Arabs conclude with Israel will be binding for our generation. However, it is impossible to imagine that this peace will be binding for the generation that succeeds us or for all the generations to follow. His Majesty King Husayn has never spoken about the peace we are seeking without making it conditional on acceptance by future generations and their willingness to maintain and defend this peace. This is especially so since a peace, a settlement, or a long-term truce is a mere contract among fathers who are tired of the war or among fathers who could not continue the resistance because of the magnitude of enemies who succeeded in weakening and fragmenting them and imposing all forms of political, military, economic and psychological siege on them. [passage omitted]

It is not enough for us to say that we oppose or support the so-called Gaza-Jericho First option. The alternatives we have do not allow us, as a nation, to make this option possible through our support or impossible through our opposition. Future generations are our only card. They alone will know how to tackle the issue down to the finest detail and how to view the picture in a clear manner. This is especially so since our pan-Arab state of affairs makes everything, good or bad, possible. This is one of the results of the Gulf crisis and the nation's involvement in inner turmoil.

Shammas Comments on Talks, Differences With Israel

NC0809054593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Another session of the 11th round of talks ended last night without progress. The Lebanese-Israeli session focused on issues that the Lebanese delegation put forward regarding a proposal to set up a bilateral military committee. After the meeting, the Lebanese delegation head Suhayl Shammas said differences remain and there are still gaps between Lebanon and Israel. He said he proposed to the Israeli delegation many specific issues relating to the Israeli paper on the formation of a joint military working team. Israeli delegation head Uri Lubrani claimed that a military committee is the only way to make progress.

Jericho Seen as Capital of Israeli 'World Order'

NC0809074493 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 31 Aug 93 p 1

[Editorial by Talal Salman: "Jericho, the Arab Defeat!"]

[Text] The "Gaza-Jericho First" plan seems like an Israeli project accepted by the Palestinian leadership and subsequently patronized by the U.S. Administration as a historic "achievement" by its "moderate" allies in the Zionist entity.

It is difficult to assume that this plan is "Palestinian" in origin, even if the Palestinian voice is loudest in defending it and advocating it (on the Arab scene at least).

It is a project that confiscates what remains of Palestine as an Arab cause and dismisses the right of any Arab to discuss or oppose it.

The plan did not await, perhaps it does not seek, Arab opinion. Indeed, perhaps among the justifications for drawing up and proposing this plan is the scheme to separate the Palestinians from Arabhood and banish Palestine, not only from Arab hands, but also from their conscience.

The plan uses the Arab defeat as a prop to justify the Palestinian man's retroactive separation from his nation: He acts as if it was the Arabs who made him lose the old Palestine and he is now distancing himself from them to save what is left and not lose "Jericho" after he lost the 1948 territory, the 1967 territory, and everything in between.

This justification is indispensable for weaving an Israeli alliance with some Palestinians, particularly with their official leadership, to confront the Arabs "outside."

Palestine belongs to those on its territory. Those who are outside stay there!

Those on its territory are Israel and the acephalous Palestinians. No harm then in importing a "head" from abroad to achieve the delusion that the liberation has taken place—for behold: The leader of the revolution, the PLO chairman, and the symbol of independent national decisionmaking has been chosen as leader of the inside, meaning what is left of Palestine. Now he "enters" as if the "return" has been achieved.

No harm in letting an individual on this level "enter," even if this is done at the expense of 4 million Palestinians, who will be obliged to sever their links (and memories) with Palestine. After all, the returnee has enough symbolic power to compensate for the absence of millions!

Furthermore, the "one who enters" represents everything at home and abroad. Does he not represent clandestine action, the armed struggle, and the revolution? Is he not the fedayeen, the president, and the institutions? Is he not nationhood, Arabhood, and Islam in their entirety? Is he not Western and Eastern countries and everything in between—what used to be called the nonaligned states? Is he not the money, the weapons, diplomacy, and politics?

The plan's greatest "support" lies in the inability of the others to reject it. If they reject it, they will be unable to offer a better alternative. If they offer a theoretical alternative, they will be unable to enforce it by power of arms or position.

This inability is the strongest weapon of the advocates of this plan, which is so suspect it can easily be called treason. It is also very difficult to persuade those who have accepted it to abandon it for a revolution that is now an illusion and a national struggle that is extinct as a political fact. Of this struggle, only memories and an uncertain future remain.

It is an Israeli plan. No one disputes this. Israel is the strongest party, the one most able to impose things, particularly if backed by U.S. support, which provides the necessary Arab cover for what might be called a Palestinian deviation.

Who has the right to publicly reject and incriminate those who have agreed to assassinate Palestine for the sake of a puppet municipality in Jericho?

There is no Arab authority whose edict has the force of law, who can become a death verdict against the project, its promulgators, those who contributed to and advocated it, those who patronized it, and those who seek to implement it.

There is no Palestinian institution with sufficient prestige and moral influence that can speak so decisively that the error it condemns will be condemned by all Palestinians and what it approves in line with accepted principles will become the law from which no one may depart.

It was not until Israel secured U.S. backing for Palestinian subservience that the Palestinian leadership began attempting to persuade those whose acceptance, nonopposition, indifference, or silence it could buy to promote

this trap of a project. The Arabs see it as an omen of inter-Palestinian strife or an Arab civil war that will begin as a Palestinian-Jordanian struggle and eventually extend to every house a Palestinian shares with another Arab.

Jericho is the candidate to become the "Arab" capital of the new world order. This order, of a U.S. nature worldwide, is Israeli in the Arab world. It will remain Israeli as long as self-destructive Arab divisions persist.

It is as if the new world order is presenting the "Gaza-Jericho First" plan as a foundation to weave a new style of "Arab solidarity." The age of Arab solidarity against Israel (and the West) for the sake of Palestine is over. Now is the age of Palestinian solidarity with the West (and Israel) against the Arabs. Perhaps it is the age of solidarity among some Arabs, most of the West, the majority of Israelis, and some Palestinians against "all Palestine" and "all the Arabs."

It is the new chapter in the Israeli-Western scheme. Instead of keeping Palestine as a base for Arab rejection and Arab struggle to thwart the scheme, the Palestinian leadership has become the foundation upon which is based the agreement to end "historical Palestine:" the pan-Arab dream, the essence of the Arab struggle, and its spearhead. Its end is being sought with obvious excuses the effect of which cannot be denied or alleviated and that include Arab weakness, abandonment, and defeatism.

The defeat begins and ends with Palestine.

Perhaps we are now leaving 5 June (1967) to enter 6 June.

Hizballah Attempts To Invest in Security Zone Foiled

TA0709135293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Sep 93 p A4

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpts] Hizballah has recently made several attempts to invest funds in the establishment of institutions in Shiite villages inside the south Lebanese security zone, but all the attempts were foiled by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. [passage omitted]

The IDF aid units in south Lebanon have been recently visited by leaders of Shiite villages, who said they had been offered large amounts of money by Hizballah troops in Lebanon for developing their villages inside the security zone.

Israel has increased civilian aid to the security zone population, and it stands at $6.8 million this year, as opposed to last year's $6.3 million. The budget covers aid in the fields of medicine, road construction, aid to various institutions, as well as SLA salaries.

Some 25 km of new roads are currently under construction in the security zone, which has a population of 200,000. Lebanese residents have recently begun returning to the security zone. [passage omitted]

Resistance Attacks SLA Position With Rockets 7 Sep

NC0709170893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah says that Iqlim al-Tuffah came under intermittent shelling from Israeli positions this afternoon. Citing security sources in Marj 'Uyun, REUTER says that resistance fighters attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in Sujud with rockets and mortars this afternoon.

Claims SLA Personnel Killed

NC0709193693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance claimed an attack with machine guns and rockets on Sujud position at 1745 today.

A statement by the resistance said a number of the personnel manning the post were killed or wounded in the attack.

Militias of the Israeli occupation army [South Lebanese Army—SLA] reported the attack but mentioned no casualties.

Army Storms Home; Seizes Pistols, Ammunition

NC0709172593 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Sep 93 p 4

[Text] An Army unit Wednesday [1 September] night stormed the home of 'Abbas Salhab in Burj al-Barajinah and arrested the owner's son Muhammad. The unit also confiscated 18 pistols, 5 rifles, a silencer, a night telescope, and shells. The detainee has been referred to the judiciary.

Envoy Denies Deal With Israel Over Golan Heights

LD0809105493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] The Syrian ambassador to Tehran has rejected the claim made by the Zionist regime yesterday, which stated that on the basis of a secret deal, part of the Golan will be handed over to Syria.

In an interview with our correspondent, Ahmad ol-Hasan said: [announcer-read] There is no secret agreement concerning the Golan Heights with the Zionist regime.

Secret Contacts Report 'Baseless'

JN0809065393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In its commentary today, TISHRIN newspaper deals with the resumption of the 11th round of the peace talks. It examines the negotiations on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian tracks in light of recent Israeli statements about expected breakthroughs on these tracks and amid Israeli conditions that are unacceptable because they are both unrealistic and far from the essence of the talks. TISHRIN notes Syria's assertion that any talk about secret contacts is baseless and that the only framework for the talks is the Washington framework to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria has nothing to hide, because it is concerned about peace. The Syrian document, presented in the sixth round of the Washington talks, reaffirms Syria's determination to see the talks achieve their objectives and overcome the Israeli stalemate and obstacles.

TISHRIN says: We cannot say that a breakthrough has been achieved on the Syrian-Israeli track, because Israel has wasted every opportunity in the previous rounds and is now repeating its stands in this round.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Peace is not divisible. When Syria responded to the peace efforts, it was proceeding from certain constants: There will be no peace with occupation, there will be no peace without achieving a just and comprehensive solution, and there will be no partial or separate solutions—such solutions only complicate and exacerbate the situation. Therefore, any talk about Israeli intentions that do not concentrate on the substance in the peace process—beginning with a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory—is considered an evasion of the requirements for peace.

'Incomplete' Solutions Produce 'Shaky' Peace

JN0709065893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the 11th round of the peace talks and the Rabin government's statements, AL-THAWRAH says: No doubt, the Rabin government's statements about progress on the Syrian-Israeli track are only appropriate cover for its attempts to take on the negotiating Arab parties one at a time.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Undoubtedly, incomplete solutions produce incomplete, shaky, and pale peace. The real touchstone of the seriousness of Israeli officials who make overoptimistic statements about progress in the negotiating process is full commitment to Security Council resolutions in actions not words. This alone would establish a durable, just, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Al-Shar' Receives Russian Envoy, Kozyrev Message

JN0709205093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received a Russian envoy, Viktor Posuvalyuk, chief of the Middle Eastern and North African Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, who handed him a message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The message concerns the enhancement of ties between Syria and Russia, the peace process, and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Emphasis was placed during the meeting on the need to continue consultations and the exchange of views between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Ghassan Raslan, head of the Foreign Ministry's East Europe Department, and Mikhail Bogdanov, the Russian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Al-Asad Receives Sudanese Envoy, al-Bashir Message

JN0709182593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, Sudanese minister of industry and commerce, at 1245 today.

Mr. Mustafa communicated a message to his excellency the president from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation.

The president and minister talked about Arab affairs.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Calls For Resignation of President, Cabinet

BK0809111293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 8 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar on Wednesday called for President Borhanoddin Rabbani to resign and for the cabinet to be disbanded during a reopening ceremony for Kabul University.

"I am asking the president, the prime minister and the cabinet members to resign and for the establishment of a neutral interim government," Hekmatyar told several hundred guests at the higher learning institution which had been closed for nearly 18 months.

He added that the interim government should be chosen in "a free general election" which would take place in October.

In his preliminary remarks, Hekmatyar was critical of the present state of affairs in Afghanistan, which he denounced as running counter to Islam.

"Whoever says that there exists an Islamic government in Afghanistan is actually humiliating Islam," he declared. "We are miles from an Islamic government."

The controversial prime minister, who leads the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction and rose to power as a rival of Rabbani, said it was not fair that mojahedin leaders should sit in an isolated room and share power between themselves.

His comments were in apparent reference to the failure of Afghan leaders to quit their constant bickering and factional fighting to work out a compromise and achieve a true power sharing arrangement.

Hekmatyar, himself not immune to such criticism, has been accused by his rivals of un-Islamic behaviour due to his faction's rocketting of Kabul, which cost the lives of thousands of civilians.

Nor has the fighting among leaders been eased by Hekmatyar's reluctance to move operations from his Charasiab headquarters, 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of Kabul, citing security problems.

Cabinet ministers are obliged to travel from the capital to Charasiab to carry out government business—an embarrassing state of affairs for the fledgling Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Abdul Ali Mazari, the leader of the Shiite Muslim faction Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party], which is the military ally of Hekmatyar, said he "wholeheartedly welcomed brother Hekmatyar's positive proposals" for the resignation of the country's leaders.

"I hope all the Jehadi leaders will respond to this proposal. This is a good chance for them to show their self-sacrifice, courage and honour," Mazari told his audience packed into the university auditorium.

Meanwhile, university dean Amir Hasanyar voiced concerns over security for the reopened university.

"Sixty percent of our students are girls, and their families are not ready to send them here unless they get firm guarantees that they are safe," Hasanyar said.

As if in response to Hasanyar's concern, Mazari told the gathering he would withdraw all his men from the university campus, adding that he had instructed his commanders to behave correctly.

Hasanyar also called for 10 million dollars in urgent funding to reconstruct various faculty buildings destroyed in clashes between mojahedin factions who had competed for control of the capital.

Nangarhar Deputy Governor, 6 Others Assassinated

BK0809100893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept 9 (AFP)—The deputy governor of Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar, Shomali Khan, has been assassinated along with six others, Afghan sources here said Wednesday [8 September].

The seven were gunned down outside the former royal palace in the provincial capital of Jalalabad late Tuesday [7 September], an official at a Peshawar-based information centre of the Jalalabad administration said.

Syyed Ishaq said the body of Shomali, who belonged to the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) led by Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, was being brought here by road for burial later in the day.

Ishaq and other Afghan sources had no clue as to the motive or identity of the attackers or whether any arrests had been made in Jalalabad, seat of a multi-party governing shoora or council.

Shomali, a well-known Mojahedin commander who played an important role toward a settlment among rival Afghan political factions at Jalalabad in May, was one of the most influential figures in the region.

The Nangarhar shoora is headed by governor Haji Abdul Qadeer, a leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction of Mowlawi Yunes Khales.

"We have heard the report and we are awaiting details," Afghan ambassador in Islamabad, Sardar Roshan, told AFP.

Afghan circles in Pakistan, which shelters some 1.5 [amount not specified] Afghan refugees, feared that the

assassination of Shomali could trigger factional tensions in the neighbouring eastern province.

Afghanistan's mojahedin factions signed a peace accord in Islamabad in March to try to halt to the deadly internecine fighting for the control of Kabul after the overthrow of the Soviet-installed communist regime last year.

The subsequent Jalalabad agreement paved the way for a new government in Kabul, under the Islamabad pact, that retained President Borhanoddin Rabbani and gave the slot of premier to radical leader Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar, head of his Pashtun-dominated Hezb-e Eslami party, has assumed office along with a cabinet, but continues to operate from Charasiab near Kabul because of the still-uncertain security situation in the capital.

Though relative calm has prevailed in Afghanistan in recent months, the central government is yet to fully establish its writ in different provinces of the land-locked country.

Hekmatyar last month made his first foreign tour as premier, travelling to Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia to discuss the regional situation and seek assistance for reconstruction of his war-torn homeland.

Iran

Foreign Ministry on UAE Claim, Yinhe Incident

LD0709184993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman, in an interview with our correspondent this evening, rejected the position of the foreign ministers of the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in supporting a claim by the United Arab Emirates [UAE] regarding the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. He said: Any time the Islamic Republic of Iran takes a decisive stand against the Zionist regime, baseless claims of this sort are put forward by these states.

Referring to the fact that the islands are Iranian and will remain so, he stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran considers such claims to be in the interest of foreigners and to the detriment of the Muslim people of the region. It will not allow any state to overshadow the general stability and security of the region by political games.

On the American confession [e'teraf] of its unfounded claim regarding the Chinese ship, which delayed the delivery of relevant consignments to the Islamic Republic, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: The American forces' action means the insecurity of marine trade; it is a blatant violation of the freedom of shipping and a disregard of international law. He added: International forums must confront such illegal acts and guarantee the freedom of international trade.

Concerning the delay in delivery of the consignments destined for the Islamic Republic, he asserted: The Chinese Government, under whose flag the ship was sailing, will be taking legal action and we, also, will be supporting domestic firms which have sustained losses in this regard and protest against the American action.

Our country's spokesman, referring to the temporary settlement of refugees from the Republic of Azerbaijan in the joint border strip between Iran and Azerbaijan, said: The Islamic Republic, on the basis of humanitarian intentions, has agreed to a request from that country's officials for assistance in setting up a temporary camp, with a capacity of 100,000, in Azerbaijani territory.

GCC Motives on Islands Issue Questioned

LD0709213593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, PGCC, issued a statement at the end of their two day session in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In fact the Riyadh session was the 48th gathering of the foreign ministers of the PGCC, which is constituted by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain.

This time the concluding statement was based on three main subjects. On the first subject the PGCC foreign ministers welcomed and backed the draft agreement between the Palestinians and the Zionist regime over grant of self-rule in the Gaza region and Jericho. And the second subject—which seems to be repetitive—Iraq was strongly criticized and its policy on non-enforcement of the UN Security Council resolutions condemned. And the third subject, the recurring and consistent matter discussed at every session of the PGCC foreign ministers, that is the issue of the three Iranian islands, was brought up once again and stress was laid on the alleged UAE sovereignty over the islands of Smaller [as heard] and Greater Tunb and Abu Musa.

Political analysts fail to find any reasonable ground for the following issue. Under the conditions where the U.S. efforts on attaining its long-standing goal of legitimizing the Zionist regime as a state in the region are taking a serious and open form simultaneous with the direct U.S. pressures on the Arab countries, why did the PGCC members release such a statement at their regular session?

Obviously the Arab world and, in general, the Islamic world, is today faced with the danger that undoubtedly poses a threat to the region. In the event of the recognition of the occupier Zionist regime by the Palestine Liberation Organization, followed by a similar move by Arab states of the region, the 45-year long struggle of the Arab world against the Zionist occupiers will become insignificant. At the same time this act will face the danger on presence of the Zionist regime in regional

markets and also simultaneous opening of trade-economic and cultural exchanges of the Zionist regime with the Arab states of the region. [as heard]

However there are already visible certain groupings in the region. On one side there is the faction favouring reconciliation with the Zionist regime at every cost and is moving along with the U.S. policy. On the other side there is the opposing faction which views any agreement with the Zionist regime as repugnant to all aspirations of the Palestinian nation and an infringement of the rights of a nation which is still suffering from the pains of a 45-year long homelessness. Under these circumstances it is surprising to note the contents of the statement released by the 48th session of the PGCC foreign ministers.

While the statement has discussed the PLO-Israel draft agreement, it has tried to divert the public opinion toward the issue of Iraq and the three Iranian islands. Even though the Islamic Republic of Iran has been constantly stressing its stance on opening talks with the UAE over the issue of Abu Musa, is seems that the renewed assertion of this issue as the final statement of the Riyadh session cannot be unrelated to the past policy. This act can lead to the emergence of certain sensitivities.

Official Statement Denies Sale of Oil to Israel

NC0709181293 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] AL-SHA'B has received the following statement from the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Cairo:

The Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Cairo denies the news published in AKHBAR AL-YAWM on 28 August 1993 concerning the sale of oil to the Zionist entity by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The section also vehemently denies having any relations with that entity. The section announces that these reports and allegations are groundless and tendentious.

The Islamic Republic of Iran always acts in accordance with the principles of its foreign policy, one of which is to defend the sacred Palestinian cause. The Islamic Republic of Iran sees support of the legitimate rights of the oppressed Palestinian people as part of its lasting Islamic responsibility.

Construction To Begin on Azerbaijani Refugee Camps

LD0709175493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Report from unidentified correspondent in Baku]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following the announcement that the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to build temporary camps for 100,000 war refugees of the Azerbaijan Republic, an agreement was signed last night between the Iranian ambassador to Baku and Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Ali Tahmazov on constructing, setting up, and managing the camps.

According to the agreement, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken responsibility for constructing, setting up, and managing the camps for the temporary residence of 100,000 war refugees of the Azerbaijan Republic in this country.

The construction of the camps will start today, and the area within which the camps will be built will be 4 km from the common border and on the soil of the Azerbaijan Republic and in the region of Imishlie, overlooking the town of Parsabade Moqan in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Khamene'i Speech on Prophet's Birthday

LD0509134193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, commemorating the birth of the Prophet Mohammad, at the Imam Khomeyni Mosque in Tehran on 5 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Dear listeners, as you heard in the news, on the blissful occasion of the birthday of His Excellency the Prophet—peace be upon him—and of the [sixth Shiite] Imam Jafar Sadeq, this morning various strata of people, a group of civil and military officials, and guests of the International Conference of Islamic Unity met the leader of the Islamic revolution in the Imam Khomeyni mosque. During the meeting, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i spoke extensively on the problems and issues facing the Islamic world and on the necessity of unity among Muslims. We end this hour's news bulletin with the full broadcast of the leader's speech. We ask for your attention and wish you a good day. God be with you.

[Khamene'i] [Passage omitted] We should realize that the world has advanced scientifically but it has fallen ethically. The world has reached a point where—in front of everyone's eyes—the world's bullying powers turn virtue into vice and vice into virtue. I think there is nothing worse in the world than the corruption and decay of man. According to [Shiite] traditions, His Excellency the Prophet said: A people will come who propagate vice and prohibit virtues, and they [the companions] were surprised [to hear this]. Then the Prophet said: Vice will be propagated and virtue will be prohibited.

Now one feels that this very condition is being advertised in the world today by the materialist, arrogant, powerful, unbridled, selfish, haughty, and bullying hands of the arrogant powers. They tell lies right to the people's face, and portray this lie as divine. They encourage injustice and give the oppressors the right to commit injustices. They blame the oppressed, further oppress them, and portray this as a good deed. This is the world today. A group has usurped Palestine and are not even content with this. For more than 40 years they have continually

pressured the Palestinian Muslims, causing homelessness, massacres, and humiliation. This is certainly an obvious vice. Who will not condemn a man who has entered your house without any right and has bullied you?

Now look at what is happening today. An oppressor, who has clearly committed this injustice and continues it, is being strengthened by the joint efforts of the European powers, the United States, their servants, their lackeys, and those governments which have come to power on the orders of the United States and which have no relation with their own people.

Then, on the other hand, the Muslim Palestinian and Lebanese youth who have come to the end of their tether sometimes embark on a Jihad against that tyrant and oppressor, something which is praiseworthy in the eyes of all the wise ones of the world. From every side cries are raised to the effect that they are terrorists, they are tyrants. Why did you kill; why did you attack; why did you not surrender; why did you not compromise? Well, look there cannot be greater corruption than that in the world! That is what corruption means. [passage omitted]

The killing of Muslims in the former Yugoslavia has continued for two years now, and throughout those two years they carried on talking. Those who wanted to act seriously [did so], just like us. We were serious in this matter. Our people, our youth, as well as our government and state organs—as God is our judge—were all ready to do whatever they were capable of doing. Some Islamic countries were also serious. To be fair, we saw clearly that some Islamic countries are serious in this matter and do not pay any attention to the United States or others besides the United States.

Those who were serious were kept behind the scenes. Well, the area is in their hands after all! Gentlemen! Iranians! Muslims! People of the world! Know that they wanted to do the same regarding the Iran-Iraq war, but could not. They wished that the same thing which happened to the Bosnian Muslims would happen to the Iranian Muslims, to the Afghan Muslims. That is what they wanted, but they could not [realize their desire]. Now they have achieved a toehold among those wretched [Bosnians] in the area they have won; they are Europeans after all. That is the status of the world and the moral corruption of the world.

Of course science has advanced. Some sit up and look at the scientific developments of the United States and the rest of the world and envy them. Of course scientific advance is surely worthy of praise. The lack of advancement in the scientifically underdeveloped states is surely a misfortune [nekbat]. May God wreak his increasing wrath against those who have inflicted such misfortune on Muslim states. [crowd chants] God's damnation on the Pahlavi dynasty and the Qajar dynasty; those two ignominious and ill-omened dynasties that inflicted such misfortune on our nation for over 200 years. Otherwise, we would have been far ahead of the United States and Europe from the scientific point of view at one time. [passage omitted]

However, one must bear in mind that development and progress in science does not necessarily bring about salvation for a given country. There are numerous nations who are at the apex of scientific development, but which, at the same time, are sinking in the depths of a quicksand of corruption and decay. Right now in the world, there are nations like this living under the superpower's umbrella.

In such countries women face a bleak life, men are helpless, and the youths are facing annihilation. There are elements [in those countries] who spread prostitution, addiction, crime, and all the other factors which bring misery to mankind. However, a cover-up by organs of propaganda does not allow...[sentence unfinished] There is a loudspeaker at the disposal of an ignorant and tyrannical person who lives among many thousands who have no access to such means. These many thousands include scholars, scientists, and respectable individuals. In such a situation, the words which come through the loudspeaker, even if spoken by ignorant and untruthful persons, will rise above and cover up the words spoken by others.

This is how the world stands today. Today, the world propaganda network is run by the Zionists. The majority of famous news agencies are Zionist. It is, of course, clear what the Zionists will say about Islam, the Islamic revolution, the Islamic Republic, and finally about the power which stands firm and resolute in relation to the Palestine issue. Naturally, their statements will be saturated with slanders and abuse. Any other attitude will be a cause for surprise.

Well! That was one of the points that I wished to address. As this debate became quite lengthy, I will mention the second point briefly. The second issue concerns unity. My dear ones! Under the name of His Eminence Muhammad [crowd salutes the Prophet], the world Muslims will be able to unite quite easily. This is a special feature of the eminent Prophet. I have repeatedly said that he is the crystallization of the emotions and sentiments of all Muslims. [passage omitted]

Today the slogan of: Indeed the Muslims are brothers, so bring peace among brothers [Koranic passage which he delivers in Arabic], is more serious than ever. When you see that Muslims in some countries today are suffering from oppression and weakness, it becomes quite apparent that these are the consequences of disunity and discord. If the Muslims had been united, Palestine, Bosnia, Kashmir, and Tajikistan would not be the way they are today. If there were unity, the Muslims in Europe would not be living in misery, and the Muslims in the United States would not be subjected to such oppression and bullying. The main reason [for all these] is that we have disputes [among Muslims]. The main champion of Islamic unity is the Islamic Republic. However, all the arrogant powers

subjected us to attacks. Of course, the Islamic Republic was able to confront them all single-handedly. [Crowd chants praise to God]

They attacked us because we propagated unity, and this was something which they were opposed to because it was not in their interest; therefore they tried to disrupt and undermine it.

I would like to stress that the Shiite and Sunni scholars, wherever in the world they maybe, must be careful about the preservation of this unity, which has been achieved in Iran by paying a high price. The call to unity in the world has come about in a costly way, so keep it safe from dying down. Anyone, no matter whom, whether Shiite or Sunni, who breaks this unity has betrayed Islam. [passage omitted]

God's Peace and Salutations be upon you. [crowd chant, supporting Khamene'i and his leadership]

Habibi, Kuwait Envoy Discuss Relations, Security

LD0709154893 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] In a meeting with First Vice President Mr. Habibi today [7 September], the Kuwaiti ambassador to Tehran stressed his country's willingness to expand and strengthen its ties with Iran. The Kuwaiti ambassador said: The people of Kuwait will never forget Iran's support for them during Iraq's occupation of their country. He added that regional problems can be solved in negotiations by the heads of regional states.

Vice President Habibi stressed Iran's policy of expanding friendly relations among its neighboring countries and said: Muslim states of the region should more deeply consider issues pertaining to the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea in order to maintain security in those regions. Mr. Habibi added that foreign countries' intervention in the region would do nothing but damage cooperation among regional states.

Elsewhere in the meeting, pointing to firm stands adopted by Iran against regional issues [as heard], Mr. Habibi welcomed expansion of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Habibi Welcomes Promoting Relations

LD0709170293 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 7, IRNA—Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tehran, Fawzi A. al-Jasim, today said regional disputes should be resolved by holding negotiations between officials of the states concerned. Al-Jasim, who made the remark in a meeting with First Vice President Hasan Habibi, lauded as "very fruitful" the expansion of Tehran-Kuwait ties for maintaining regional stability and security.

He said that his country was keen on expanding and deepening bilateral relations with Iran and said the Kuwaiti nation will never forget Iran's support for their country during its occupation by the Iraqi regime. "The hospitality and kindness of Iranians towards the Kuwaitis will always be borne in our minds," added the Kuwaiti official.

Habibi in return underscored the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy on establishing and broadening "friendly and brotherly" ties with its neighbours based on good will. "Muslims of the region should profoundly think about issues concerning the Persian Gulf (PG) and the Gulf of Oman in order to safeguard the security of these areas," said Habibi. Foreign intervention, he said, has made the region unstable and has hampered friendship and cooperation among the regional states. Habibi referred to Tehran's firm stance on regional issues and welcomed the promotion of relations between the two neighbouring states. He hoped that peace and stability would be restored to the region following expansion of cooperation among the regional states.

Lebanon's Shaykh Sha'ban Meets With Velayati

LD0609195293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of Lebanon's Islamic Unification [tawhid] Movement, met with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon. Sha'ban, who has come to Iran to take part in the Sixth International Islamic Unity Conference, submitted a report on the situation in Lebanon and in the region. He stressed the increasing necessity for unity among Muslims, the closeness of Islamic countries, and the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran as an axis of solidarity and strength in the Islamic world.

At the meeting Velayati expressed the hope that the problems of the Islamic world will be solved through increasing unity and organization of Muslims.

Discusses Gaza-Jericho Plan

LD0709161193 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 7, IRNA—The Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan is designed to pit PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat against the intifada, said leader of Lebanon's Tawhid [Unification] Islamic Movement Sheikh Sa'id Sha'ban here Tuesday. "The Zionist regime has delegated to 'Arafat the task of suppressing the Palestinian Muslims, because Tel Aviv and Washington want to exterminate Arabs through their own rulers", Sha'ban told IRNA in an interview.

The sheikh who is here for the ongoing 6th international Islamic unity conference, believed that by attacking southern Lebanon, the Zionist regime meant to drive a wedge between the Islamic-national resistance movements and the war-stricken people.

He deplored that Arabs, particularly Egypt and Jordan, have not learnt any lesson from the resistance of the

Lebanese people against Israel and they continue to compromise with Tel Aviv. "Islamic fundamentalism reflects the heartfelt desire of Muslims, creates unity among the Islamic ummah, and inspires them to throw away the yoke of slavery," Sha'ban said, taking note of the spread of the Islamic movement around the globe, especially in Egypt and Jordan.

He added that Islamic nations could achieve victory as Iran did if they follow the guidelines of Islam.

On the massacre of Europe's native Muslims in Bosnia, the Lebanese leader called it a U.S.-engineered conspiracy aimed at fragmentation of Islamic countries and subsequent domination of them. However, he believed that the war in the Balkans had its positive aspects awakening the local Muslims.

Sha'ban felt confident that in the long run the U.S. will be defeated.

Meets With Interior Minister

LD0709221893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of Lebanon's Tawhid Islami [Islamic Unity] movement, this afternoon met Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati. He pointed out the difficulties that Muslims face in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Azerbaijan Republic, Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Palestine. Describing Iran as the heart of the Islamic world, he said guarding Iran is the very continuation of the life of Islam.

Thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support for the Lebanese people and condemning the compromise between Palestinian leaders and the Zionist regime, he stressed that the struggle must continue until the Zionist regime is destroyed.

During the meeting, Mr. Besharati condemned the aggression of the military forces of the regime usurping Jerusalem and denounced the American policy of using the pretext of a new world order to bully other nations. He said: This order is a disorder which will not continue and will finally bring the collapse of the world, including the West.

Pointing to the Armenian aggression against the Azerbaijan Republic, the interior minister, while condemning these aggressions, described instability in international border areas as the cause of insecurity and war in the region.

Discusses Muslim Issues With Besharati

LD0809102293 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 8, IRNA—The visiting leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, described Iran as the "heart of the Muslim world" and said to protect Iran would guarantee Islamic life throughout the world.

Shaykh Sha'ban made the remark in a meeting with Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammed Besharati here yesterday.

He deplored the status of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine who were facing grave difficulties.

Appreciating Iran's support for Lebanese people and condemning compromise of Palestinian leaders with the Zionist regime, he underlined the need for perpetuation of anti-Israel struggle by Palestinians. He called on Iran to continue its support for the Lebanese and Palestinian oppressed people. Meanwhile, the interior minister underscored Iran's stand in emphatically condemning recognition of the illegitimate Zionist state.

Pointing to the Serbs' massacre of Bosnian Muslims, he said, "the only sin that Bosnians have committed, for which they have been brutally attacked by the Serbs, is that they are Muslim."

Commenting on the new world order, he said in fact it was a disorder which would not last long and would ultimately end up to the destruction of the world, including the West.

Turning to the issue of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, Besharati said that Armenian aggressors intend to occupy the whole republic and annihilate Muslims there in order to create instability in the borders.

He condemned such acts of aggression and stressed that war and insecurity would affect all areas if international borders became unstable.

The interior minister also underlined Iran's support for the oppressed Lebanese and Palestinian people.

Shaykh Sha'aban was a guest of the Sixth International Islamic Unity Conference which ended work Tuesday night.

Commentary Criticizes PLO-Israel Accord

LD0709224693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1655 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Although the PLO-Israel compromise regarding the Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan has enjoyed the support of the majority of Arab and Western states at official level, at the popular level it faces extensive opposition from the Palestinian groups inside and outside the occupied territories as well as from the Islamic movements of the Arab world.

Yesterday, 10 Palestinian organizations opposed to the PLO-Israel agreement decided to create a new congress and apparatus to replace the PLO. The opposition of all the Islamic movement and of some Palestinian national groups to the Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan has several reasons.

The first is that the self-rule plan covers only 2 percent of the land of Palestine and gives Palestinians defective rights by which, according to the interpretation of some opponents, the Palestinian executors of the self-rule plan will be Israeli employees who would be replacing that regime's military command cadre.

The second is that the silence of the Israel-PLO agreement regarding the 1948 refugees does not show any clear horizon for the resolution of the Palestine crisis. In other words, the Israeli opposition to the return of the 1948 refugees—who number about 1.5 million—keeps one of the most important consequences of the occupation unresolved.

The concern of the Persian Gulf shaykdoms regarding the possibility of those states being forced, under U.S. pressure, to accept around 600,000 resident Palestinians as their national citizens reveals signs which indicate that this part of the Palestine crisis might be resolved within unprincipled frameworks, and, perhaps, through the distribution of the crisis in the region.

The third, and most important reason which the opponents raise in rejecting the Gaza-Jericho plan, is the threats and dangers which the plan carries in its wake for the people of Palestine and their aspirations. The restriction of self-rule to the Gaza Strip and the infinitely small Jericho area—which measures only 25 square km—and the relegation of the fate of the rest of the West Bank to later bilateral negotiations is far from the minimum that the PLO had put forward during the Washington talks. The opposition of many members of the PLO executive committee and the Palestine National Assembly to the plan is based on the same shortcomings.

Moreover, it is clear by now that the most dangerous duty which will be conferred on the Palestinian self-rule administration will be to stop the intifadah, as well as to provide safety guarantees for the Zionist occupiers against military and harassing operations, which can be a source of internal war among the Palestinians.

The fourth reason for opposition to the Gaza-Jericho plan is the efforts of the designers of the PLO-Israel agreement to buy Palestinian aspirations with money or the promise of money. Although the geographical location of the Gaza Strip on the Mediterranean shore has brought about a potential for all-round development of that area, the Zionist regime's consistent policies in preventing any industrial, agricultural, and port installations in that area have turned its people into the poorest in the world. In other words, the Gaza Strip—which has one of the densest populations in the world—within the framework of the Zionist regime's planning is nothing but a residence which has to supply about 70,000 cheap workers for Israeli industries every day.

The expansion of the intifadah anti-Zionist operation, as well as the strengthening of the Islamic movement among the poor people of the area, became pretexts for the Israeli regime to deprive the people of Gaza access to the only possibility of finding employment. Israel's actions a few months ago in closing that area—which brought in its wake horrific pressure for the economy and livelihood of the people of the area—then the compromise with Israel by the PLO over the Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan, and now the reports being put out regarding the promise by America, the EC, and the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms to pour billions of dollars into the area for development all indicate a series of inter-connected events which seem as though America and Israel are intent on buying the Palestinian people by planning beforehand in such a way that they make the implementation of the self-rule plan coincide with future economic prosperity.

Nateq-Nuri Speaks on Revolution to Lebanese Students

LD3108191893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Excerpt] 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, said the following today [31 August] to a group of Lebanese students at a meeting sponsored by the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee:

One of the aims of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, was to export the revolution. This, of course, did not mean aggression or invading another country's territory. It meant exporting the culture of the revolution to other countries.

Describing the aims of Imam Khomeyni in relation to exporting the revolution, he said:

The imam of the ummah believed that with our actions, we must take the revolution beyond the border, and by showing the revolution's culture abroad, we must attract other nations and induce them to take action toward confronting tyranny and oppression. Today, praise be to God, this wish of the imam has materialized in many countries; it has enjoyed the greatest influence in Lebanon, in particular in the south and among the Shiite population of that country.

The Majles speaker continued by describing the recent resistance of the Hezbollah and the uncompromising attitude of the people of southern Lebanon toward the Zionists. He said:

This move by the people of Lebanon caused the anger and arrogance of the Zionists. They saw with their own eyes that the brave youth of Lebanon are basing their actions on our model, and that, after us, they constitute the second major threat to the global interests of arrogance.

In another part of his speech, Nateq-Nuri referred to the point that the invincibility of global arrogance is merely a myth, and stated: We and you have proved this in practice. He added:

With their recent dastardly attack on Lebanon, the Zionists intended to damage the image of Hezbollah in the minds of the people of south Lebanon. However, with

God's blessing and through the bravery and zeal of the Muslim youth, the situation was reversed, and today this youth is safeguarding their integrity and faith on the scenes of struggle against Zionism and arrogance. [passage omitted]

Prices on Goods To Remain Stable; Plane Fares To Rise

LD0709162493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Excerpt] On the basis of the latest decisions of the Economic Council, the price of goods and public services will not rise for the duration of the first expansion plan. Mr. Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, announced this news in an interview with correspondents today. He went on to list the latest decisions taken by the Economic Council concerning changes in prices. Our correspondent reports.

[Unidentified correspondent] The head of the Plan and Budget Organization said that the process of reforming and changing the price of those groups of goods and services which have their prices determined by the Economic Council has ended for the duration of the first plan. He said: The revision of prices will, in the future, take place within the framework of the second expansion plan which will be endorsed by the Majles.

Concerning the decision of the Economic Council to increase the price of domestic and foreign flights, Mr Rowghani-Zanjani said: In accordance with the proposal of the minister of Roads and Transport and approval of the Economic Council, the price of domestic flights for the Homa [Iran Air] and Aseman airline companies will rise by 20 percent, on average. As to the rise in the price of international flights, he said that the price of international flights will be calculated on the basis of the floating exchange rate. All domestic and international airline companies and Homa are duty-bound to give a discount of 45 percent on the rate of international flights fixed by IATA. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto Announces PPP Manifesto

BK0209115793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 2 Sep 93 pp 1, 10

[By Zafar Malik]

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan People's Party [PPP] Wednesday [2 September] announced its manifesto revolving around the theme of "public-private Partnership" for social and economic development under a "new social contract" that will ensure a balance of powers and functioning of federal, provincial and local governments.

The announcement was made by Benazir Bhutto, co-Chairperson of the party, at a Press conference at Islamabad. Marriott Hotel, pledging to restore "the integrity of economic and political system."

The philisophy and objectives of the party have beens expanded to include two mottoes namely "Shahadat for our cause" and "all power to the people." These are additions to the original objectives set by the party in 70's when it was led by her father Z A Bhutto, who declared that "Islam is our faith, democracy is our politics and socialism is our economy.

Z A Bhutto's concept of mixed economy has been diluted by Benazir Bhutto who stands for achieving full potentialf of market forces for social development and production to make Pakistan a middle income cousdntry by the year 2000. The manifesto says the nuclear policy will be peaceful and development oriented.

The party paints a grim pieture of the country's political and economic situation to emphasise the need of new social contract, which it regrads as a revolutionarys concept. The mannesto says "government has collapsed. With it, law and order has collapsed. Thieves go sent free. Corruption is rampant. The ordinary citizens make out a miscrable life. Injustic stalks them." Given the collapse of the social order, the Pakistan People's Party intends to introduce the new social contract to bring about a new balance of power and to create a new system in which the rights of the masses are not trampled. A new system which ends the monopoly of the thanedar and the [police subinspector] feudal, of the oppressor and the exploiter and a system which protects athe weak and oppressed.

The following are the salient features of the PPP manifesto.

The fifteen chapters of manifesto include economic sector, social sectors, promotion of science and technology, defence, public-private partnership, the new social contract, foreign affairs, elimination of drugs, media policy, special provision for the journalists and retired officials, tourism commission history, human rights, rights for women, minorities and tribal areas.

The PPP will organise educate and participate in the economic and political process and hold itself accountable to the people of Pakistan.

It shall rebuild the country, renew its economic, religious, moral and social strength and return the sovereignty of Pakistan to where it belongs, the people.

PPP will create public-private partnership to achieve the full potential of market forces for social development and production.

New social contract will ensure a balance in the power and function of federal, provincial and local governments.

The PP will strive for justice, education employment and health for all.

The PPP privatisation policy will be geared to achieve full participation of the forces of production, social development and an end to monopolies.

The party's policy of rapid industralisation will be aimed at making the country a act exporter of manufacture goods.

Party's human rights programme will ensure equal rights for women and minorities, extensive facilities for children and senior citizens.

Peasdant and labour, the two major forces of production, will be protected against all forms of exploitation.

PPP's administrative reforms will secure an honourable role to government servants and aim at ending corruption.

The party's nuclear policy will be peaceful and development oriented.

The economic objectives will be aimed at making Pakistan a middle income country by the year 2000.

The party fiscal policy will be aimed at reducing budgetary deficit and inflation and maintaining growth level at minimum level of seven per cent.

The party will give secured ownership to all landless peasants and tenants besides taking measures to increase per acre yield of country's farms to international level.

Female literacy and primary aducation shall be made universal in shortest possible time.

Health for all by the year 2000s target shall be achieved.

A vigorous population planning programme will be launched to improve the health of mother and child and reduce the rate of population growth to two per cent in ten years time.

The Peoples Works Programme will be fully participatory and community-oriented.

Promotion of science technology and research is at the core of the party's modernisation policy.

By the year 2000 self-sufficiency in rural and urban electrification as well as industrial needs shallf be achieved.

The party shall continue and enlarge its programmes for providing hi-tech communication networks all over the country by improving rail and road transports, ports and shippings and telecommunications.

The party shall ensure free movement of information through multiple and privatised channels of TV and radio besides ensuring freedom of the Press.

The PPP will defeat the legacies of dictatorship, ethnicity, sectarianism, drug mafia, political violence and vendetta.

Efforts will be made to achieve permanent peace in the region as well as in the world.

The new social contract will be the guiding philosophy of the party whichs redefines the relations between the federal, provincial and local governments and public private partnership in which the public and private sectors, the state and the people work together in harmony.

Islam, national unity, economic advancement of Pakistan and new social contract will serve as the four basic principles of the PPP if it is voted to power.

Under its new social contract, the PPP will introduce the new balance of power, new electoral system, new relationship between the President and the Parliament, new parliamentary code, defence committee of the cabinet and new methods of appointment to the higher posts.

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Under its new social contract, the PPP will introduce the new balance of power, new electoral system, new relationship between the president and the parliament, new parliamentary code, defence committee of the cabinet and new methods of appointment to the higher judiciary.

The party will introduce the balance of power between the province and the local bodies besides introducing the constitutional reforms providing for the instant dissolution of the assemblies whenever the National Assembly is dissolved.

The PPP will adopt a dynamic approach in the centre-province and province-local government relations whereby a harmonous balance is struck within the federal framework so that each compliments the other.

Subject to its power to make constitutional amendment the party will make reforms in the constitution. Under the new electoral system the chief election commissioner will be nominated by the prime minister in consultation withs the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly from a judge of the Supreme Court. The government and the opposition will nominate each from the judges of the high courts for the Election Commission.

The Election Commission will appoint the secretary and additional secretary after consultations and approval of leader of the house and leader of the opposition respectively.

A commission will be set up to strengthen laws pertaining to the elections.

In light of its demand for a truely representative assembly the PPP will introduce a list system and an additional number of seats will added to the directly-elected members.

Voting age will reduce from 21 to 18 years while the joint electorate will be introduced to give minorities a true and effective voice in electing representatives and ending religious apartheid in the country.

Political Parties Act will be made effective to ensure and an end to floor crossing and horse-trading use of identity cards for elections will be discontinued.

In order to redistribute power between president the prime minister and the parliament the term of office at all levels including the president, Senate, assemblies, local bodies and governors will be four years.

The government will be appointed by the prime minister in consultations with the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly. The president will appoint the armed services chief but will not have the power to dismiss assemblies or be consulted on the appointment of governors or judges of higher judiciary.

The PPP will make agriculture a profitable profession and work for achieving gross antarky in food within five years. Unemployment will be eliminated from the country through a comprehensive programme. PPP government will also implement a vigorous programme to improve the lot of workers and provide them maximum job security. Drastic steps will be taken to eradicate poverty.

PPP will give priority of basic infrastructure in the field of communication instead of spending money in high sounding projects.

Priority will be accorded to protect the environment. Lowari Tunnel will constructed, economic disparity will be removed and education for all will be ensured through various programmes. Population planning programme will be strengthened.

Nawaz Sharif Launches Election Campaign in Sind

BK0509032693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group, has said that if his party is voted to power, it will solve all problems facing the people. Addressing a public rally at Mehar to launch his election campaign in Sind, he said his party will ensure durable peace in Sind and provide land to landless peasants and jobs to unemployed youth. Nawaz Sharif said his party wants to establish a society free from exploitation. He said everybody will be provided with justice at his doorstep. He pledged to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state as envisioned by great leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Addressing another rally at Larkana, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz chief said that he has established an example of serving the people without caring for his own political interests and if his party comes into power again, he will serve the country with utmost sincerity.

Party Manifesto Published

BK0609113793 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Aug 93 p 7

[First of two installments of the "text" of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group's Election Manifesto; all quotation marks as published]

[Text]

Foreword

This Manifesto, being issued on the eve of 1993 General Elections, is not only a program, but also a solemn pledge to: Preserve the integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan. Accelerate the process of Islamic renaissance in Pakistan. Strengthen the democratic process in Pakistan. Achieve total socio-economic justice in Pakistan by mobilizing the people to participate in a major poverty alleviation program. Promote rapid agricultural and industrial development of Pakistan with a view to improving the life of the common man. Establish a modern technological base to achieve self-reliance and sustain economic growth. Many bold initiatives were launched by my government in 1990-91 to move Pakistan forward into the 21st century as a strong, invincible, and debt-free country. But those who did not want to see a strong and prosperous Pakistan, forging new economic and cultural links with the Central Asian and other neighboring states, created obstacles that cut the five-year tenure of an elected government by half. These important tasks have remained unfulfilled. I seek a renewed mandate, with a two-thirds majority in Parliament, to carry forward the historic mission spelled out in this Manifesto.

If the people of Pakistan will repose their confidence in the Pakistan Muslim League, I promise:

To strengthen the ideological moorings of Pakistan by reinforcing truly Islamic ideals and principles and forging stronger links with all Islamic countries.

To establish true democracy based on the supremacy of Parliament, the rule of law, and healthy democratic institutions and traditions.

To engineer a social revolution by mobilizing the youth and ensuring an honorable and active role for women in the country.

To launch a war on poverty so that by the end of this decade every Pakistani is able to meet his or her basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, education, and health care.

To modernize the agricultural sector of this country through new technologies, higher yields, and high-value agriculture.

To bring about a second industrial revolution through further deregulation, unprecedented expansion of infrastructure, substantial inflow of private foreign capital, and massive investment in value-added industries.

To attain the cherished goal of self-reliance by reducing dependence on foreign loans, mobilizing domestic resources, and establishing a sound technological base.

I invite all Pakistanis to join me in accomplishing these noble goals over the next five years, so that we can build a better tomorrow with no overlords and no underdogs.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif
(President)
Pakistan Muslim League
Islamabad
25 August 1993

I. Political Objectives and Cardinal Principles

"Very often it is said, "Why cannot we have this party or that party?" now let me tell you, and I hope you will agree with me that we have as a result of unceasing effort and struggle ultimately achieved Pakistan after ten years. It is the Muslim League that has done it. There were of course many Mussalmans who were indifferent; some were afraid, because they had vested interests and they thought they might lose; some sold themselves to the enemy and worked against us, but we fought and by the grace of God and with His help we have established Pakistan which has stunned the world. Now this sacred trust is in your hands, that is the Muslim League."—Quaid-i-Azam, Mohammad Ali Jinnah; 21 March 1948.

The story of Pakistan is the story of a great human ideal struggling to survive in the face of formidable obstacles. The fierce resistance of the Hindu majority to the idea of Pakistan, the influx of millions of Muslim migrants, the Indo-Pakistan wars of 1948, 1965 and 1971 and the Russian march into Afghanistan into 1979 were all attempts to stifle and destroy the ideals on which Quaid-i-Azam, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, founded this homeland of ours.

The Pakistan Muslim League which under the dynamic and inspiring leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, won this homeland, has today emerged as a vanguard political force seeking to strengthen Pakistan against internal and external subversion. It, therefore, seeks the support of all the patriotic and progress-seeking elements in the country.

Pakistan is an ideological state based on its overwhelming composition of Muslims. The Muslim League led by Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and inspired by Allama Mohammad Iqbal won independence from both the British and the Hindus. Islam must therefore remain the strongest pillar of our society and efforts must be made to incorporate Islamic values into national life. Islam is a total philosophy of life which enables Muslims to adjust to changing situations in Islamic and non-Islamic countries. It encourages an intense sense of community and a sense of belonging. It advocates compassion *(ihsan)* and justice *(adl)* in all walks of life. To further inculcate these values and practices the Pakistan Muslim League will endeavour to: Make Islam the focal point of national unity by minimizing ethnic and sectarian differences; take steps to ensure greater unity and harmony among different schools of thought in Islam and achieve a consensus on contentious issues. The scourge of sectarianism is a negation of Islamic principles and it will, therefore, be resolutely resisted.

Reiterate the principles embodied in Khutba-e-Hujjatulwida and Meesaaq-e-Medina [prophet's last Mecca pilgrimage sermon and Medina declaration]; and further strengthen Islamic values of compassion and to foster the realization and observance of *huquq-ul-ibad* [people's rights] i.e. the entire spectrum of our social obligations towards each other in order to realize the objectives of an Islamic welfare state. In this context there must be special emphasis on the responsibility to pay taxes and meet debt obligations, and the duty of the better-off members of the society to look after the needy, sick, and the poor.

The second main objective of our political policy is to establish *true democracy* in Pakistan to ensure that the ultimate authority in governing and managing the affairs of the people rests with the people, at all levels of government, through governments elected by the people, so that dictatorship or monopoly of power by individual groups or a family is effectively eliminated.

To redeem this pledge and to promote greater political stability and inter-provincial harmony, the Muslim League will undertake the following specific measures:

Modification of those provisions of the Constitution which undermine the supremacy of the Parliament and are not in line with the norms and traditions of a parliamentary system.

To firmly establish democratic institutions and healthy traditions so that all future changes of government take place only through periodic elections, floor crossings by elected representatives are prohibited and the elected opposition is given full recognition to play its due role in the national Parliament and the Provincial Assemblies. The essence of democracy lies in political pluralism.

Establish a special judicial forum, under appropriate legislation for investigating allegations of corruption or irregularities against elected representatives and thus providing a permanent and concurrent mechanism of accountability in the country.

To further decentralize the system of administration and economic management from the federal to the provincial level, from the provincial to the district level, and from the district down to the village level. For this purpose the provincial Governments would be provided financial resources and administrative powers to carry out their expanding responsibilities. A major step in this direction

has already been taken with the unanimous award of the 1991 National Finance Commission.

To fully guarantee and encourage the freedom and the role of the press and the electronic media in promoting national unity, democratic values, and nation-building activities, recognizing the media's vital role in a democracy as the fourth Estate.

To evolve a transparent framework to provide the right to information to every citizen.

The third major objective which the Muslim League will endeavor to pursue vigorously is the establishment of the rule of law in the country. The concept of freedom and democracy is inseparable from the rule of law. In Pakistan many political and social problems have remained unsolved because we as a people have not been able to establish the rule of law. The Muslim League will endeavor to lay down solid foundations for the rule of law to ensure that:

The Constitution of the country is obeyed and followed in letter and in spirit and the authority of superior courts to interpret the Constitution is fully respected.

Maximum political freedom and the fundamental human rights guaranteed by the Constitution are fully protected including life, liberty, property, security, honor and freedom of speech, association, and movement of every citizen.

There is equal protection of law for every citizen irrespective of his or her religion, sect, or creed; and all forms of exploitation, oppression, and injustice are eradicated.

Full protection to minorities and promotion of their basic rights including the right to participation in national life and the freedom of religious worship.

Effective legislative and administrative measures are taken to curb political and bureaucratic corruption and permanent judicial tribunals are set up at different levels to try the corrupt; and the machinery and procedures for detecting corruption are simplified.

Security of service for all public servants and ensuring that they perform their duties without political interference.

A massive crack-down on drug mafias, smugglers, and tax-evaders will also be launched.

An inexpensive, effective, and speedy system of justice will be provided by simplifying procedures and expanding staff and other facilities required by the judiciary. Reforms will also be introduced in the police system.

The Muslim League has inspired the masses with hope and expectations that only the Muslim League can further implement. In the past two years the Prime Minister launched a concerted campaign to protect and comfort poor citizens when they became victims of oppression and crime. Wherever women were abused, where murderers had devastated homes, the Muslim League leadership was there. The Muslim League pledges speedy justice for the oppressed, and determined efforts to uplift the rights and dignity of the poor people of Pakistan.

II. Economic Charter

Development of the people, by the people, for the people is our economic charter. The main thrust of this charter is to take Pakistan into the 21st century as a middle income country; and at the same time to ensure, that the benefits of economic growth are translated into a better quality of life for the people. The specific aims of our economic strategy are:

i) To eradicate poverty and guarantee, within available means, food, clean water, shelter, and basic facilities for health and education to all citizens.

ii) To bring about agricultural transformation that will ensure sustained increase in agricultural productivity and higher incomes for the farming community.

iii) To launch an industrial revolution through the establishment of a modern industrial base and to accelerate the annual growth rate of this sector to at least ten per cent per annum.

iv) A major improvement in the country's infrastructure and in trade, transport, and financial services to support the modernisation of the economy and help it accelerate the GDP [Gross Domestic Product] to double over the next decade.

v) Creation of a just society which ensures justice for all by greatly reducing disparities between different regions and classes in the country.

vi) To move decisively toward greater self-reliance by reducing dependence on foreign loans, balancing the budget, and attaining self-sufficiency in food and other critical areas of the economy.

vii) Effective implementation of the National Conservation Strategy to conserve and develop the country's land, water, and forest resources.

Policies and programs to achieve those objectives have already been initiated through a bold initiative of economic reforms in the past two years. These include a successful privatisation programme and massive deregulation to remove unnecessary restrictions on new investments; imports, foreign exchange, and travel. Special incentives have also been announced to attract foreign investment. These reforms have brought about a dramatic improvement in the overall investment climate in the country reflected in the unprecedented boom in the stock markets, larger inflow of foreign exchange and keen interest among foreign investors to come to Pakistan.

The interruption caused in the implementation of these programmes by the political uncertainty that overtook

this country during the past few months, will automatically end when the Muslim League government is voted back to power, with a new mandate to continue these dynamic policies for the next five years. The resultant boom in the national economy in 1994 will be bigger than that witnessed in 1991.

Agricultural Transformation: Agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy. Without sustained increments in agricultural productivity and higher incomes in the farm sector, the country's industrial and employment objectives cannot be achieved. To bring about such a transformation in the country's agricultural and rural sectors, the Muslim League will initiate the following programmes.

i) Double the investment in the water sector over the next five years, following the historic Water Accord of 1991, to improve the existing irrigation system, expand the network of canals and ensure more efficient use of the country's water resources.

ii) Allotment of state land in riverine and other areas to landless peasants and haris [farm workers] with provision of adequate credit for the purchase of tractors, tubewells, and other agricultural inputs. A separate Land Development Authority will be established at the provincial level to safeguard the rights of allottees in riverine areas and give them necessary assistance.

iii) Massive improvements in the rural infrastructure to provide farm to market roads, electricity, and basic health and education facilities in all rural areas.

iv) Increase agriculture productivity by guaranteeing provision of basic inputs like good quality seed, fertiliser, pesticides, diesel, and credit to farmers at their doorstep at reasonable prices. Special attention will be paid to increasing the productivity of small farmers.

v) Introduction and expansion of "Yellow Tractor" scheme to provide loans on easy terms to small farmers for the purchase of tractors.

vi) Significant improvements in agricultural marketing to ensure that farmers receive remunerative prices for their output in line with international agricultural prices.

Industrial Revolution: To move more decisively towards the next phase of an industrial revolution, the Pakistan Muslim League will:

a) Further intensify the process of privatisation and deregulation to attract greater investment in strategic sectors, particularly in the field of power, petroleum, gas, telecommunications, ports, shipping and financial services.

b) Bring about further qualitative improvements in the banking and financial services to finance new investment in high value-added export industries, especially electronics, chemicals, and engineering.

c) Provide incentives and financial services for establishing machinery manufacturing capability and translating scientific research into practical technologies to give competitive edge to Pakistani manufactured exports, and also enable indigenisation of defence production.

d) Undertake extensive investment in industrial research and technology with a nation-wide network of vocational and technical institutions.

e) A wide ranging programme of small scale industries in rural areas to provide employment and incomes for the rural population and to curb migration to urban areas. Industrial support centres would be established as self-financing autonomous institutions for providing credit, technical facilities, and sub-contracting services to small scale rural industries.

f) To ensure the well-being of the workers by introducing labour reforms so as to cope with the expanding needs of industrialisation.

Expanding Infrastructure: The Government in the past two and a half years brought about a significant change in the role of the Government, by curtailing it in areas which it cannot handle very effectively; and expanding it in areas in which it must play a dominant role, i.e. physical and social infrastructure. As a result, total investment in telephones, electricity, and highways between 1990 and 1993 has increased rapidly.

The number of telephones installed has been doubled from only 920,000 in 1990 to 1,920,000 by June 1993. Similarly the generation capacity for electricity was expanded by 50 per cent from 7770 MW to 10,600 MW by June 1993. It is expected to increase further to 12,500 MW by June 1994, with corresponding improvements in the transmission and distribution system. The total expenditure on national highways of Rs [rupees] 30 billion in these three years has been greater than the cumulative expenditure on highways in the past 30 years. The country's first motorway from Lahore to Islamabad is now halfway to completion and will be fully operational by 1995. Work on the Indus Highway, which will reduce the distance between Karachi and Peshawar by 400 km and provide a very efficient trade route to Central Asia, is in full swing. Container handling facilities and an oil jetty at Karachi are being constructed in the private sector, and several private airlines have started operations bringing down the cost of air travel.

The Muslim League government will continue to give high priority to the expansion of the country's infrastructure. The network of motorways and highways will be further expanded in all parts of the country and fly-overs and by-passes provided in all major cities. The railway services will be modernised and improved. The Gwadar port will be completed in the next three years with a road link from Gwadar to Indus Highway.

With a new petroleum policy announced in 1991, the interest of foreign investors in gas and in thermal power generation has increased enormously and many new

projects are now in the pipeline. A new energy policy will be formulated to expand power generation at a rate fast enough to eliminate the problem of load shedding.

Since it will take time to provide the required infrastructure in all parts of Pakistan several special industrial zones have been planned for different parts of Pakistan to provide a one-window facility to investors.

With these dramatic changes and incentives for investment and the massive expansion of infrastructure, the Muslim League Government in its next tenure will be able to build on these major initiatives to establish an industrial base and greatly accelerate the pace of investment and growth in the economy in the rest of this decade.

Concern Expressed Over 'Harassment' of Chinese Ship

BK0709142693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan has expressed deep concern over the harassment of Chinese ship, Yinhe, involving multiple violations of international law. A statement issued by the Foreign Office in Islamabad today says the principle of the freedom of the sea does not permit interference with ships in international waters nor does it allow any state to resort to unilateral action on the basis of suspicion in regard to the nature of the cargo. The statement said now that it has been fully established that the Chinese ship was not carrying chemicals to be used in the production of weapons, it is imperative for the United States Administration to make a thorough reappraisal of the reliability of its so-called intelligence information.

The statement said on the basis of similarly incorrect information alleging transfer of missiles exceeding MTCR, the Missile Control Technology Control Regime, criteria, the U.S. Government last month imposed unjustified sanctions against China and Pakistan. No agency should be permitted to play such havoc with normal friendly relations between states. The statement said the Government of Pakistan compliments the Government of China for the restraint shown by it.

Article Claims U.S. Drug Report Incomplete

BK0409095993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Sep 93 pp 1,4

[Article by Kamran Khan]

[Text] Karachi—Contrary to general perception, the recently published report on the drug situation in Pakistan by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has not mentioned the names and activities of some of the most active drug barons from Pakistan, according to an investigation by this correspondent.

Typical of Intelligence agencies, the CIA has refused to comment on the report published in Pakistan, but well informed sources have told the NIU that the report "Heroin in Pakistan: Sowing the Wind" was actually commissioned by the CIA and it was authored by a Washington based independent security consultant not a regular employee with the Agency.

Sources said it was a routine CIA practice to hire indepenent individuals to carry out research on various subjects in different parts of the world. Another report on Pakistan's drug situation, written for the CIA by an independent researcher, made its way to the pages of New York city's leading newspaper Newsday late last year.

Like the report published in the New York newspaper the author of the recent report has also damaged the credibility of this predominantly authentic report by including some hearsay evidence. The report has miserably failed in its ability to cite the names and activities of some of the most active drug traffickers from Pakistan. "Neither the Newsday report nor the recently published report on "Heroin in Pakistan" were official CIA documents," a knowledgeable source said.

The names which escaped the author's investigation include that of Abdur Razzak Awan. Awan, according to Western and Pakistani drug enforcement official, is the key character in the syndicate which attempted to smuggle at least 200 metric tonnes of hashish to the United States in the past 30 months. He is currently wanted by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in the case of a 100 metric tonne hashish which was seized off the coast of Hawaii more than a year ago.

Razzak is also wanted to Pakistan Customs in separate seizures of hashish ranging from 35 metric tonnes to 40 metric tonnes off the Mekran Coast in the past three years. A bizarre attempt to remove his name from the list of accused persons in these cases was made early last year when Razzak approached a senior customs official posted at the Central Board of Revenue and persuaded him to issue an order for a reinvestigation of his cases.

Karachi based Razzak owns several ships and runs a maritime agency from his Dubai office, while his sons run a vast steel manufacturing business in Karachi. Well informed sources said that Razzak escape arrest because of his strong connections in the Customs and the Pakistan Coast Guards. Amongst his partners in the tribal belt of the NWFP are Momin Khan Afridi and his increasingly influential relatives in Lahore.

The so-called CIA report also failed to mention the name and activities of Karachi and Dubai based Arif Baluch alias Noora Teddy. Like Razzak, Arif Baluchf also overseas huge consignments of hashish and heroin to Europe and North America off the coast of Karachi and Mekran. He was acquitted in a huge heroin smugglsing case about two years ago when the Pakistan Narcotic Control Board almost backed out from the case against Baluch leading to his acquittal.

The PNCB never appealed against his acquittal by the Customs Court in Karachi. Soon after his acquittal an under the table deal prevented Customs intelligence from arresting Arif Baluch in one of its drug smuggling cases.

Since that acquittal Arif Baluch is believed to have played a significant role in shipping several huge consignments of drugs from Pakistan. In the tribal belt he is believed to be associated with Haji Ayub Afridi.

For a long time Baluch served as a shipping agent for the notorious Hail Iqbal Beg and Anwer Khattak. Pakistan's Drug Enforcement officials believed to have tonnes of evidence against Baluch, but no serious effort has yet been made for his arrest. As a cover Arif Baluch runs a large hotel in Saddar Karachi. He is currently wanted by the Pakistan Customs and by more than one western narcotics agencies."

The report on heroin in Pakistan does discuss in great detail the drug lords from the tribal front of the NWFP, but it has restricted itself to the Notezais while unveiling the drug barons from Baluchistan. No doubt that Sakhi Dost Jan Notezal, whose activities were first mentioned in a series of articles by this correspondent, was one of the most active drug baron from that province, but recent investigations have shown that at least a few others are rising to the same position.

Bisham Dhel, a Turbat based boot-legger, in the past two years, has risen to become the leading sponsor and financier of huge consignments of drugs from the Mekran coast to the outside world. Bisham Bhei is connected with top suppliers of drugs in the tribal belt. Early last year Bhel moved from Turbat to live in a luxurious bungalow in the posh Defence Society in Karachi.

Bisham Bhel is wanted by the PNCB in a massive drug smuggling case, but the Board never made any attempt for his arrest. Sources in the Mekran coast area describe him as one of the most influential individuals with vast connections. The sources added that like Razzak and Arib Baluch, Bhel has also opened an office in Dubai.

The man who has been providing hideouts and security to massive drug consignments in between their arrival from the tribal areas and their shipment from Mekran Coast has been identified as Imam Yaqub Gong. The new drug delaer, now in his mid twenties, is believed to have made millions of rupees by storing drugs and transporting them to the Mekran Coast.

Gong, like Bhel, has also moved from Turbat to a palatial house in Defence Society and in recent months has himself become the financier behind huge drug consignments to the Middle East, Europe and North America. Gong has also established connection with drug producers in the tribal belt and with those operating from the vast refugee camp of Girdi Jungle near Dalbandin in Baluchistan. His name also figures in the PNCB list of wanted drug smugglers.

For unknown reasons the CIA reports also failed to mention the Karachi and Peshawar based Haji Ibrahim as one of the leading drug smugglers from Paksitan. Haji Ibrahim, alias Mulla Ibrahim, who also rung a cover transport business from the main vegetable market in Karachi is believed to be an organiser of hashish and heroin smuggling operations to the United States.

Among the active drug barons whose names were not mentioned in the so-called CIA report is the highly secretive Haji Arbab Pirjee. The Islamabad based Pirjee is balieved to be involved in several multi-tonne hashish smuggling operations to Europe and America. Like many other traffickers he also runs an office in Dubai. Interestingly, Pirjee, the former owner of a leading hotel in Karachi, is snot wanted by any local anti-narcotic agencies.

The report completely missed the names of those responsible for organising the shipments of massive consignments from Karachi and the Mekran cease. The report not only missed the names of Abdul Razzak Awan and Arif Baluch, it also failed to mention Gadani beach based Mullah Khuda Bux and Karachi based Dawood Jat.

Both these persons are known for their most intimate connections with the Pakistan Coast Guards and are considered as the "master navigtors." Both of them own several cargo launches which they operate through a very well trained crew. Many consignments of drugs from the coastal areas of Karachi and Mekran leave for mother ships anchored in the high seas on the vessels supplied by Mullah Khuda Bux and Dawood Jat.

Informed sources said that Pakistan Coast Guards failure in intercepting any major consignment of drugs on the high seas is mainly attributed to the "more than friendly relations" between the senior Coast Guards officials and drug dealers suchs Razzak Awan, Arif Baluch, Mullah Khuda Bux and dawood Jat alias Saleem.

The report on heroin in Pakistan carries unsubstantiated charges against some individuals, but it falls to mention that about two dozen individuals, previously charged in drug trafficking and corruption cases, are serving various anti-narcotic agencies and provincial police setups. These officials are also part and parcel of the elite anti-narcotic setups of Customs, Customs Intelligence, PNCB, Sindh Excise department and Karachi Police. The names of these Individuals are common knowledge of those interested in drug investigation.

No previous "jihad" by any Pakistani administration has been able to net any major drug offender and there is mounting suspicion that the drive launched by the caretaker government of Moin Qureshi will yield any success. A token success was, however, recorded in Karachi early this month when the FIA in a swift operation, arrested the US-wanted drug smuggler Mahmood Ahmed and arranged for his extradition in record time. The arrest and extradition of Mahmood Ahmed to the US was carried out by the caretaker government without any publicity.